

Calling  
Kentucky  
Baptists to  
"shine like  
stars in the  
world"  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

February 17, 2009  
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## Taking Christ to the reservations



NO RESERVATIONS SHARING CHRIST NAMB Mission Service Corps missionary Daniel Goombi passes out pamphlets to two Native American kids on one of the reservations he serves in Kansas. (NAMB photo by Erik Stenbakken)

### Couple serves as 'foreign' missionaries to Native American tribes in Kansas

By Mickey Noah  
SBC North American Mission Board

**Lawrence, Kan.**—Daniel Goombi is a full-blooded Native American, a member of the Kiowa-Apache Indian tribe, originally nomads who left Canada to settle in Oklahoma. Daniel is proud of his heritage, culture and tradition.

"I am a Kiowa-Apache and I do live in a tepee," admitted Goombi with a tongue-in-cheek grin. "It's just that it's a two-story brick tepee with central air conditioning, just a couple blocks from Walmart. We wear plain clothes ... no buckskin loin cloths. I eat meals that weren't just running in front of me, and I don't hunt with a bow and arrow. I don't whoop and holler or attack white men, wear feathers or ride a horse."

Despite his self-deprecating humor, Daniel said he views his job as a missionary as serious business.

As directors of Kansas Reservation Ministries, Daniel, 24, and wife Kimberly, 23, share the gospel on four Native American reservations—among the Kickapoo, the Sac and Fox, the Iowa and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribes—throughout Kansas. The Goombis, based in the college town of Lawrence, are Mission Service Corps missionaries for the North American Mission Board and church planters for the Kaw Valley Association.

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ANNIE ARMSTRONG  
EASTER OFFERING  
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

## State partnerships key to KBC's statewide disaster relief effort

### Louisiana convention donates \$20,000; others sending hundreds of volunteers

By Kristie Randolph  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

**Louisville**—After relying for years on fellow Southern Baptists for Hurricane Katrina relief and recovery aid, Louisiana Baptists have turned the tables, sending \$20,000 to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's ice storm relief effort.

Louisiana is just one of 17 state Baptist conventions that have played a role in the KBC's disaster relief response, according to KBC Disaster Relief Associate Coy Webb. To date, nearly 1,000 Southern Baptist volunteers have participated in the effort, which is expected to last into March.

"Louisiana Baptists understand what it means to face destruction and devastation from storms," said Mike Canady, missions and ministry team director for the Louisiana Baptist Convention. "We also know what it means to receive help from our sister conventions, including Kentucky. We are happy to help during this time of need."

Even before sending its finan-

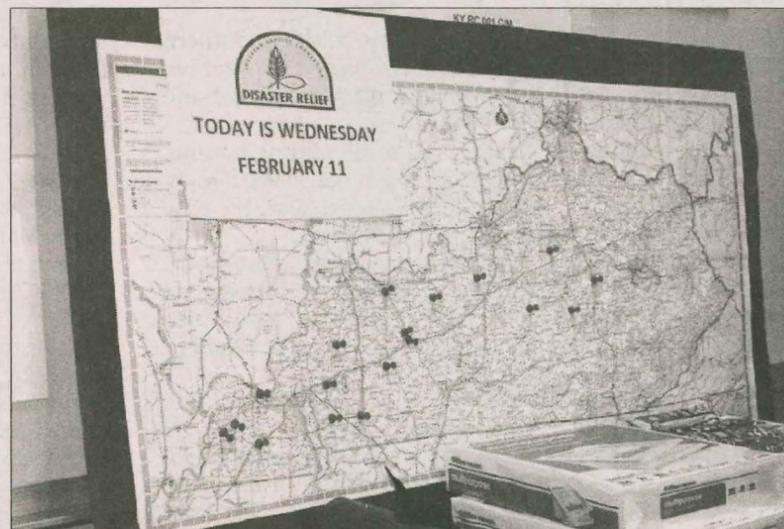
cial gift to the KBC, the Louisiana convention already was busy doing relief work in Arkansas, another state significantly impacted by last month's ice storms.

"The cooperative support of Southern Baptists nationwide has been the key to this large undertaking," Webb said. "We are extremely thankful for our sister conventions, and wouldn't have been able to meet the overwhelming need across Kentucky without their help."

The Louisiana convention's \$20,000 gift came after the convention learned that the KBC's disaster relief funds were "dwindling fast," noted Lowell Ashby, KBC's business services team leader.

"Obviously, this is not Katrina, but to have two major wind and ice disasters in six months has taken its toll," Ashby said. "After many years of Kentucky's disaster relief teams helping out other states, we are now in the recipient stage."

Webb said the Louisiana gift will go toward funding some of the current disaster relief operations, in-



STATEWIDE A map in the Incident Command Center at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville shows the 18 different sites across the state at which Baptist disaster teams were located as of last week. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

cluding repairs that will have to be made to units used in past few weeks. Southern Baptists so far have served more than 20,000 meals and completed more than 400 chainsaw jobs in the past three weeks, with another 1,000 to 2,000 jobs pending, he added.

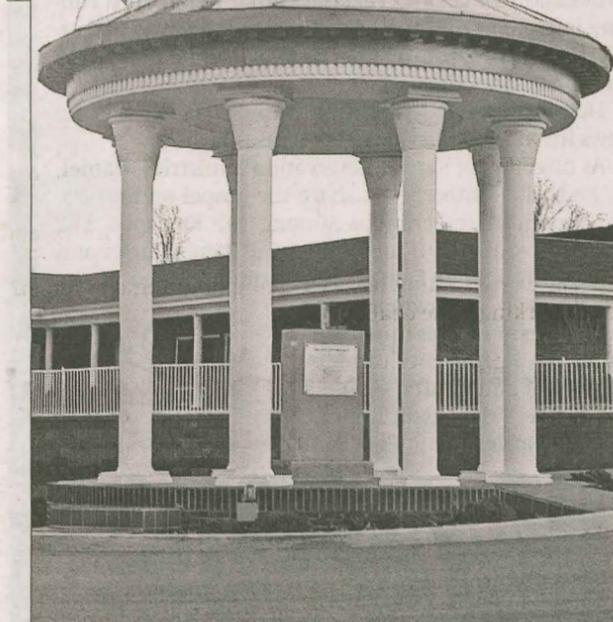
"We are thankful to our sister convention in Louisiana for their

gracious and compassionate gift to those left hurting because of the storm here in Kentucky," Webb said. "It will make a significant difference in the work we are able to do."

At least 1,700 Kentucky Baptists have been involved in Katrina relief and rebuilding efforts in New Orleans through Operation New Orleans. □ See Partnerships define ... *Page 2*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Feb. 11.

## Cumberlands buildings damaged by high winds



**STORM DAMAGE** ■ **Top:** Two cars belonging to a faculty member and a staff member were damaged by falling debris at University of the Cumberlands during last week's storm. Thunderstorms and winds in excess of 70 miles per hour swept through much of Kentucky Feb. 11, hitting the southeastern region particularly hard. News reports have speculated that Whitley County—where Cumberlands is located—may have experienced a small outbreak of tornadoes, which may have caused the damage. ■ **Left:** The Doyle Gilbert Memorial Colonnade—one of the campus' more recent additions—lost part of its roof in last week's storm. It also knocked out power to most of the school's residence halls. There were no reports of any injuries. "We are blessed that no one was injured, and we are currently continuing to assess and to repair the damages," said Kyle Gilbert, UC's vice president of support operations. (Photos courtesy of Daphne Baird/University of the Cumberlands)

### Storm left campus in the dark, forced class cancellations

**Williamsburg**—A storm producing strong thunderstorms and winds in excess of 70 miles per hour caused considerable damage to buildings at the University of the Cumberlands campus in Williamsburg last week.

The Feb. 11 storm that tore through much of Kentucky left a path of damage through the southeastern region of the state. News reports have speculated the storm may have spawned tornadoes in some of those counties.

The high winds tore part of the roof off of the John C. Leuker Building which houses Cumberlands' psychology department and an alumni office. The resulting debris damaged two cars in a nearby parking lot. The school's Doyle Gilbert Memorial Colonnade—a recent addition to the campus—also sustained damage.

The storm also knocked out power to parts of the campus, including most of the residence halls. Fortunately, no injuries were reported.

"We are blessed that no one was injured, and we are currently continuing to assess and to repair the damages," noted Kyle Gilbert, UC's vice president of support operations.

The storm had a greater effect on the city of Williamsburg, knocking out its water supply. That forced school officials to cancel classes Feb. 12 and 13 and urge students to go home if they could. A news release from the school said provisions were made for those students who remained in the residence halls. The school resumed classes Feb. 16.

The release did not specify the extent of the damage on campus, nor how long repairs would take.

### KBC committee approves freeze on staff salaries

**Louisville**—Following the prudence shown by national denominational agencies in recent months, the administrative committee of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Mission Board has approved a recommendation for the KBC Staff Salary Administration Plan to remain the same for the fiscal year 2009-10.

In communicating the action to KBC staff, Executive Director Bill Mackey, stated, "But I want you to know that your ministry is deeply appreciated and I am confident that the administrative committee will recommend increases when possible. Due to the economic challenges, I know that you understand that an increase is not possible at this time.

"I am also confident that you will continue to serve faithfully due to your sense of call and your commitment to assist the churches in fulfilling their God given mission," Mackey said.

Due to the recent ice storm that caused widespread power outages across the state, the administrative committee was unable to meet as planned Jan. 29. Instead, a telephone poll of its members was conducted.

The recommendation will become a part of the KBC budget and permits the rest of the planning process to move forward. The detailed budget for 2009-10 will be considered by the business and finance committee March 27, before being recommended to the full Mission Board at its May meeting.

## Partnerships define Ky. relief

Continued from page 1

leans Area Homes (NOAH), a partnership between Southern Baptists in New Orleans, the Louisiana Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and SBC volunteers nationwide.

The rebuilding effort was formed to address housing needs after the 2005 storm, which destroyed 50,000 homes. Originally scheduled to conclude in August 2008, the project has been extended to August of this year.

In addition to those involved through Operation NOAH, thousands more have provided relief in other areas along the Gulf Coast, Webb pointed out. Kentucky Baptists also served in Louisiana in 2008 to assist recovery efforts following Hurricane Gustav.

### Relief work update

As many as 700 Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers remain in Kentucky clearing debris with chainsaw crews and staffing feeding units. The majority of the work now is centered in Western Kentucky, according to Webb.

Some crews were forced to briefly put their work on hold last week as much of the state was pounded by a round of thunderstorms and high winds. The southeastern part of the state was hit hardest, an area that avoided the brunt of last month's snow and ice. Fortunately, Webb said, directors of missions in that region reported little to no damage.

Webb indicated that most of the work in the eastern and central parts of Kentucky is winding down. But he added that teams still are needed to complete high-priority jobs in Western Kentucky, specifically Livingston County, an area no relief team has yet entered.

With additional reporting by News Director Drew Nichter

## Events to help church ministries get 'creative'

**Louisville**—Churches that want to begin or improve their creative arts ministries are invited to benefit from an array of practical training sessions at two upcoming Creative Ministries Festivals.

This year's festivals will be held March 6-7 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, and again March 13-14 at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

Drawing thousands of participants each year, Creative Ministries Festivals are designed to help Kentucky Baptist teens and adults begin or strengthen outreach programs that utilize creative arts. Each event will run from 7-11 p.m. on Friday and continue from 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m. on Saturday.

Teens and adults of all skill levels will benefit from a variety of training sessions and creative arts workshop topics, including drama, interpretative movement, mime, puppetry, sign art, clowning and more.

Special guest artists featured at the Louisville event include comedienne Kim Coleman and sign artist Tyra Lokey. Artists featured in Bowling Green will include Chagy the Clown and comedian Dr. Tom.

Registered church groups may elect to perform a one-act play, pup-

pet skit or song, black-light performance or interpretative movement routine on Friday evening.

A variety of youth missions workshops also will be offered to help train teens and leaders interested in planning mission trips, vacation Bible schools, games and craft making, and more.

Auditions for the Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra again will take place in conjunction with the Creative Ministries Festivals. High school youth who are active members of a Kentucky Baptist Convention church may audition at either location.

For more information or to register for an audition, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/ASYCO](http://www.KyBaptist.org/ASYCO).

Creative arts and youth missions workshops are sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and the Kentucky Baptist Convention's creative ministries department.

Registration for these events is required as space is limited and fills up quickly. To register online, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/CMF](http://www.KyBaptist.org/CMF), or to get more information, contact the creative ministries office at (502) 489-3574, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3574.



**CLOWNIN' AROUND** Chagy the Clown, performing at last year's Creative Ministries Festival at Southern Seminary in Louisville, again will be a featured guest artist at one of this year's two Creative Ministries Festivals. The first will be held March 6-7 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. The second—featuring Chagy the Clown—will be March 13-14 at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. (Photo by Mandi Buckner)

## Strategist: Pastors, deacons 'get out of huddle & into ministry'

By Todd Deaton  
Editor

Lexington—National Empowering Kingdom Growth strategist Ken Hemphill urged pastors and deacons to break their huddles and get involved in ministry at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual Deacon/Pastor/Spouse retreat Feb. 6-7 in Lexington.

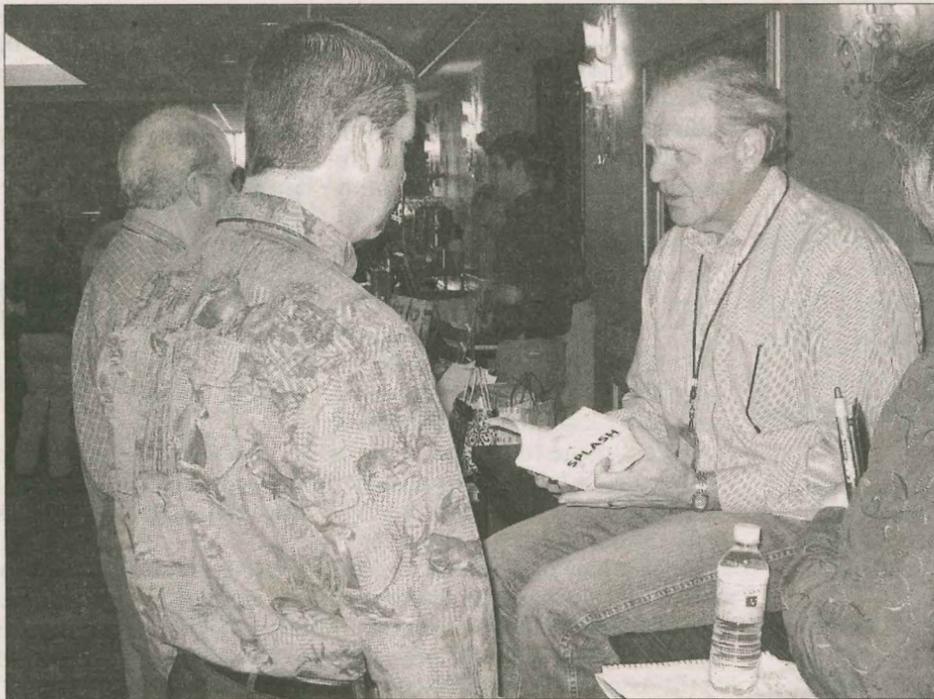
Recalling his collegiate athletic career at Wake Forest University in the late 1960s, the former president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, told how his dad jumped the wall after a football game to speak to him following a particularly demoralizing loss. Just before Hemphill boarded the team bus, his dad optimistically remarked, "Well, you looked good in the huddle," he chuckled.

"On Sunday morning, we look good ... when we huddle up and talk about what could be, if," Hemphill observed. "How do we get the church out of the huddle and into the game?" he asked.

Citing Acts 1:8 as its mandate, Hemphill declared that God is looking for the church to embody His name, embrace His mission and obey His Word. "When you find your place (in ministry), you have an opportunity to make a difference for eternity," he urged, noting that a part of the deacon's ministry is investing energy and time in God's kingdom.

"The Kingdom is going to happen," Hemphill affirmed. "The question is will Kentucky Baptists—will your church—be a part of making that happen?"

Reminding deacons that their title is derived from a word that means servant,



**FEATURED SPEAKER** Ken Hemphill (right), SBC's National Empowering Kingdom Growth strategist, signs a copy of his book "Splash: Show People Love and Share Him" for participants at the KBC's recent Deacon/Pastor/Spouse Retreat. Hemphill recalled his days as a college athlete in urging deacons and pastors to "get out of the huddle and into ministry." (KBC photo by Cheryl Frerman)

Hemphill also noted that the term arose in a context of growth from a complaint regarding the early church's expanding ministry to widows.

"Deacons were the God-given solution to the problem," he emphasized, urging their modern-day counterparts to "deal with the underlying cause to meet a prob-

lem, rather than applying topical salve just to keep people happy."

With growth comes pain, Hemphill assured, but growth pains should be regarded as an opportunity to expand ministry. "When you have two services, you will have parking-lot issues. But what is worse than a parking issue is an empty parking

lot," he quipped.

Charging that the problem is the church has grown so accustomed to non-growth that growth is seen as an anomaly, Hemphill corrected, "The Book of Acts sees God continually adding to their numbers every day.

"Somehow we got the notion that the Ship of Zion is the love boat," he mused, adding that members believe that the job of the pastor and deacons is "to keep me happy" while they enjoy the buffet spread before them and sleep in the deckchairs.

"The problem is that the ship's design is a hospital ship, and there aren't any deckchairs on a hospital ship," he quipped.

Advocating adopting a "whatever it takes" mentality when it comes to reaching out and ministering to others, Hemphill noted that when the early church looked at the growing need to minister to widows and resolved it by appointing deacons to serve, it continued making an impact for the Kingdom of God.

Recollecting an opportunity to see fighter jets launch from the deck of an aircraft carrier, Hemphill said that he was able to witness something that few civilians ever see: A full, military launch in which the plane is loaded with missiles and other weaponry. He described for the pastors and deacons how the jet outran the catapult as the pilot ignited the afterburners, and then the jet roared into the sky nearly straight up.

When it comes to doing ministry and outreach, "wouldn't it be great if our churches were going full military launch?" he challenged.

## Former Muslim, seminary president with Kentucky ties returns 'home'

By Erin Roach  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Lexington—Ergun Caner, a former Muslim who now is president of Liberty Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Va., will be among the featured speakers at the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, Feb. 23-24.

Caner, who will speak during the Monday evening session, is a University of the Cumberlands graduate. He is a Turkish immigrant and son of a Sunni Muslim scholar and architect who helped build mosques in the Midwest.

"We came to America as devout, Allah-fearing Muslims. My father built mosques, so for lack of a better term, we were raised as missionaries," Caner said.

While Caner was in high school in Columbus, Ohio, in 1982, a persistent Southern Baptist classmate named Jerry Tackett kept inviting him to church, never taking no for an answer.

"Finally, basically out of spite, to get him off my back, I told him, 'I will go.' So I went, and of course that was world changing for me because I had never been around Christians before," Caner recalled. "I knew nothing about Christianity. ... The Koran is explicit that you take no friends from among the Jews and the Christians."

Caner said it was astonishing to be around Christians for the first time and for them not to be anything like he had expected them to be. People accepted him warmly.

"I guess I lasted maybe four days in that church, and then I became a

believer in Jesus Christ," he noted.

Less than one year later, Caner found himself a student at the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, then known as Cumberland College. His devout Muslim family had disowned him for becoming a Christian.

"Cumberland literally took me in when I had nobody. I had no friends. I had nothing," he recalled. "I wrote letters to 10 or 15 schools, saying, 'I've been disowned. I'm a new Christian. I came out of Islam.' Most of them, I'm sure, just threw them away, but Cumberland responded with a scholarship."

### Bluegrass connection

Caner's first full-time pastorate was at Manchester Baptist Church in Clay County, and he preached his first full-time revival in Evarts in Harlan County, so his connections to the state are significant.

Caner then went on to earn degrees at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and the University of South Africa. He taught for two years at Criswell College in Dallas before becoming a professor of theology and church history at Liberty University. In 2005, he was named dean of Liberty's seminary.

Caner and his brother, Emir, who is president of Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga., wrote a book called "Unveiling Islam" in 2002, providing an insider's look at Muslim life and beliefs. Caner soon gained national notoriety.

Evangelism is of utmost importance to Caner because he said he understands his life would have con-

tinued on a much different path if not for one unrelenting teenager who wanted him to know Christ.

"I'm the walking testimony of one kid," he emphasized. "I'm the walking testimony of the people who think, 'Well, I'm a Sunday school teacher but the kids don't pay attention,' 'I'm the bus driver and they don't even know I'm here,' 'I teach Awana but nobody cares.' If it wasn't for that person, I wouldn't be here.

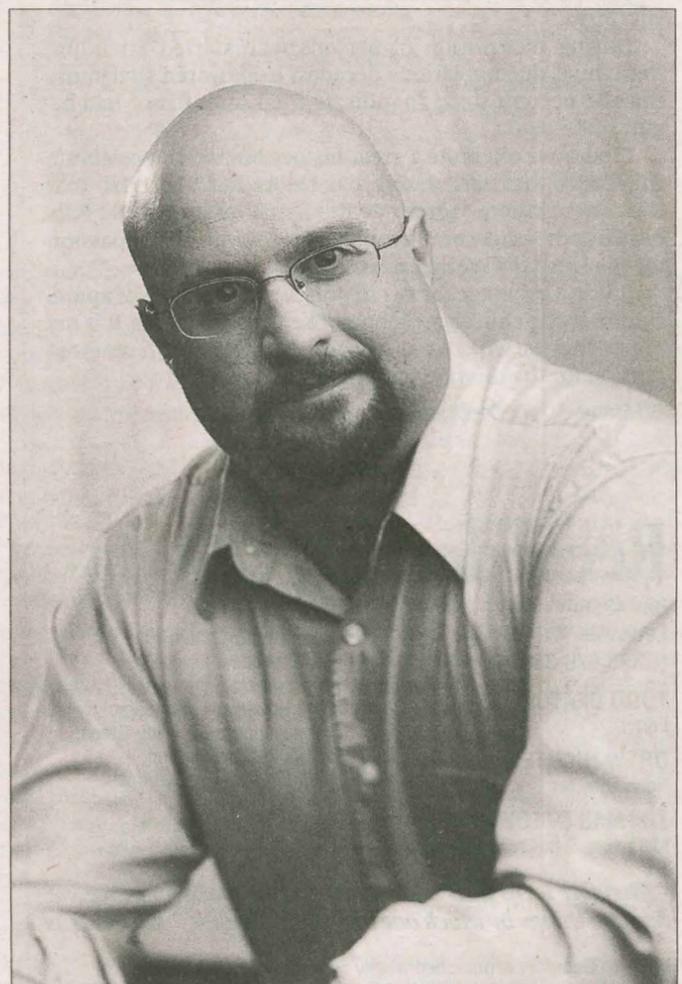
"We often focus on the results, and we're not supposed to. We're just called to play the game, not keep score," Caner said, adding that his mother was not saved until 1991 and his grandmother did not accept Christ until 1995. "If you do the math, that's 13 years after my salvation."

When people are tempted to give up after praying for someone to come to faith in Christ or working hard to witness to someone, Caner pleads with them to keep at it.

"I always tell people, 'You just can't give up. You can't.' Christianity marches on the shoulders of these faithful and yet unknown Christians," he said. "You cannot measure in human terms the investment of your time—the work that you do in the background."

Caner insisted he looks forward to speaking at the KBC Evangelism Conference because Kentucky is a familiar place for him.

"A lot of people are discipled in youth groups. Others are discipled during vacation Bible school," he said. "I had none of that. I was in college just months after I was saved. I was discipled in Kentucky. That's home to me."



**RETURNING 'HOME'** Ergun Caner, president of Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Va., will be one of the featured speakers at next week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington. The former Muslim has strong Kentucky ties through University of the Cumberlands, where he attended college. He said the school took him in and accepted him as a new Christian who had been disowned by his family. Caner began his pastoral career at Manchester Baptist Church in Clay County and has preached revivals in the state. He has led Liberty Seminary since 2005.

## Immanuel celebrates 100 years

Immanuel Baptist Church of Lexington recently celebrated 100 years of ministry. Over the past century, Immanuel has grown into a large and dynamic fellowship. The church provides an outstanding ministry to its community and is a leader in missions outreach across Kentucky, North America and around the world.

### Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

The church was constituted Feb. 1, 1909 as Tabernacle Baptist Church with 119 charter members. It ceased to meet from 1916 to 1918 due to pressures caused by World War I but reopened in 1918 with 27 members. By 1920, the membership had grown to 300.

In 1960, the church acquired 22 acres on Bates Creek Pike and developed facilities that now accommodate hundreds of ministries sponsored by the church and other groups.

These facilities have hosted many Kentucky Baptist Convention conferences over the past decades. The seating capacity of the sanctuary and the auxiliary space is ideal for large conferences like Super Saturday and the annual meeting of the KBC.

In addition to sharing its facilities, the church has also been generous in supporting missions. Over its history, Immanuel has given more than \$7.5 million to missions through the Cooperative Program and more than \$9.7 million total to missions through the KBC. All Southern Baptist and Kentucky Baptist causes are deeply grateful for this strong financial support.

Immanuel has also helped begin several other churches in the Lexington area, including Imani Baptist Church (a predominantly African American congregation), Victory Baptist Church (a predominantly Caucasian congregation), and Cardinal Valley Baptist Church (a predominantly Hispanic congregation).

During the celebration, former pastors were recognized, including H. B. Kuhnle (1957-1969) and Ted Sisk (1970-1995). Dr. Craig Loscalzo has served as pastor since 1996.

"As we look back over the history of the church, we marvel at the faithfulness of the people who have served on staff here and have been lay leaders here," Loscalzo said. "Pastors and lay leaders come and go but the Holy Spirit remains, empowering new generations to impact Lexington for Jesus Christ."

During recognition of persons who started attending Immanuel during various decades, it appeared that more than 50 percent stood to indicate their attendance had begun since 2000.

"Today we celebrate a great history but we also celebrate the future that this church has before her," Loscalzo told the congregation. "Let us, as the family of Immanuel Baptist Church, renew our commitment to live a life of passion for the Lord, His Word, each other and the world."

It was a privilege for me to present a certificate of appreciation to the church on behalf of Kentucky Baptists. It is my prayer that we will all move forward together with renewed passion for the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## Equipping pastors, deacons with tools for ministry

Ken Hemphill, keynote speaker for the Pastor/Deacons/Spouse retreat, challenged the 175-plus participants to greater involvement in ministry, partnering together in ways to ignite church growth. Stirred by his two impassioned appeals, newer deacons in their midst—and perhaps even some of the veterans—no doubt were looking for some innovative ideas for improving ministry. And, in the breakout sessions, they certainly found some effective tools for fulfilling their servant roles.

Jim Castlen, director of missions from Three Forks Baptist Association, and his wife, Shelby, who serves alongside him as administrative assistant, led a session on ministering as a couple. Organized around many of the "one another" statements, mostly from Paul's letters, the Castlens urged couples to "share together what God is stirring up in your lives."

The Castlens have served together in ministry for more than 40 years—18 of those years as missionaries to the Philippines and Australia through the International Mission Board. Before coming to Three Forks Baptist Association, the Castlens served on the faculty at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College for 12 years.

One intriguing idea for Christian couples is to create a family motto that will encourage them in becoming "a spiritual union for God." For example, the Castlens have a wood plaque with the phrases, "Each for the other, both for the Lord." Each morning, one of them would say the first phrase, and the other would reply with the second half, as a way of helping their marriage stay on track, Jim shared.

"Build one another up. Stir or encourage one another in the good work," Shelby urged.

Shane Garrison, assistant professor of educational ministries at Campbellsville University, led a poignant session on dealing with conflict. Since many churches will experience conflict at some point, it is essential that church leaders be equipped with effective tools to foster reconciliation and prevent the church's growth from being stunted.

Church leaders should not be surprised when they encounter conflict, rather they should anticipate it because people may easily become upset when something they want or are accustomed to is changed or taken away. In his book, "A Work of Heart," leadership consultant Reggie McNeal explains, "If you are a spiritual leader, you will be embroiled in conflict occasionally or frequently precisely because you are leading. Leadership that is not encountering difficulty probably is not trying to accomplish much."

Garrison, a doctoral student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and president of Maple Trail Ministry Consultants, cleverly suggested that pas-

tors and deacons take a cue from Smokey Bear. As one would when putting out a fire, Garrison urged them to "stop, drop, and roll" whenever they find themselves engulfed in conflict.

"Forest fires can be started by a little spark. Put the flame out quickly or it will cause extensive damage," he reminded the group. He offered this helpful advice: Stop the conflict appropriately, using Matthew 18 as a pattern for resolving disagreements; drop the faceless gossip, secret meetings and parking-lot discussions; and roll in seeking out help when needed.

Indeed, if more churches heeded this counsel, much of the ill feelings between members that lead to dissension, deep hurt and sometimes church splits might be avoided. Those in the midst of a conflict should seek out the sound, biblical counsel of a trusted former pastor, a pastor of another congregation, a trusted business person who possesses skills in negotiation, an associational director of missions, or the convention's leadership department personnel.

Despite what is often heard on the playground about sticks and stones, words can wound, too. So, an important skill for church leaders to develop is the ability to discern between just and unjust criticism.

Blaine Allen, author of "When People Throw Stones," provides the following criteria: Wise critics will not use reckless, angry words or go from "warm" to "boil" in no time flat. Nor will they try to intimidate, attack someone's self worth, or bully one into doing their bidding. Instead, wise critics will strive to "steer their words with restraint" because they sincerely want to hear the reasoning behind someone's actions, rather than see the person coil in self-defense, he keenly observes.

Their perspectives, Allen notes, are often worth taking time to consider because they have one's best interests at heart. So he proposes a six-point test for sizing up the legitimacy of a remark: the speaker's truthfulness, empathy, competence, factualness and restraint, and the degree of psychological pain inflicted. Nevertheless, humility is a critical attitude, and leaders must be willing to see their own flaws and accordingly seek forgiveness and reconciliation.

In other breakout sessions, Roy Saint of the Florida Baptist Convention spoke on making disciples through spiritual transformation, and KBC's Brenda Smith told how technology can support and complement deacon ministry. No matter which of the eight breakout sessions participants chose, the KBC church development team made sure that those who came seeking creative and effective ways to express God's love went away from this retreat inspired, refreshed and better equipped for ministry in their churches.

## After Thought

By Todd Deaton



## Why is the Woman's Missionary Union important?

By Bill Boldt

When I was a young pastor and became involved in the Southern Baptist Convention, I heard of an organization called the WMU. When I asked what it was all about, a wise senior pastor was quick to give me some good advice. He said it stood for "Wise Men Understand." I asked about what wise men need to understand, and then he told me about the great organization called the Woman's Missionary Union.

Although he meant it as a joke, there is much truth when we consider that, as a pastor, it is wise to understand the power and the potential of the WMU organization.

That is not to imply that only the women are the power of the church. But when we understand the impact that a group of organized women can have in promoting missions within churches and associations,

we begin to see a great support group for pastors and churches in promoting the Acts 1:8 commission.

As a pastor, I began quickly to realize that if we were going to get the job done, then it would take all of us working together to fulfill God's

command to go and spread the gospel to the entire world. I thank God for the strength the WMU has to enable pastors, churches and associations to accomplish that task.

My wife has been actively involved with WMU during my 29 years of ministry as a pastor, and I have seen the relevance of having an active WMU supporting the mission efforts of each church and association. As director of missions for Bracken Baptist Association in northeast Kentucky, it is even more important to me that the WMU becomes a vital part of our mission efforts—not only in reaching out to

a lost and dying world, but also in training up people, young and old, to understand the importance of missions and send them on mission.

Bracken promotes the work of the WMU by training an associational WMU director; conducting WMU trainings for churches; and promoting mission efforts of the WMU through our newsletter, Web site and words of testimony. By seeking projects that can be done in our churches and associations, we give evidence of the strength that the WMU has to help us be on mission.

I praise God for the vision He has given our WMU leaders to create and design innovative ways to promote the gospel message throughout the world. I believe that senior pastor was right on target.

**Editor's Note:** Boldt is director of missions for Bracken Baptist Association. This past week, Southern Baptist churches were encouraged to observe WMU Focus Week.

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**Wayne Spivey**, Cynthiana;  
**Rodney Travis**, Hopkinsville.

*"Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another." Romans 14:19*

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## Ten simple rules for managing debt

By Don Spencer

For most people, debt is a necessity. Debt can be a valuable tool in personal finance. However, if not handled properly, debt can become a major problem.



Irresponsible debt and too much debt are major contributors to the current financial crisis in our country. It is easy to cast the blame for our country's economic woes on debt. The challenge is to apply that same principle to our personal finances.

A common problem is seeing debt purely from the standpoint of the monthly payment. For example, a couple decides to purchase an item on credit because it will only cost \$20 per month. Next month it is another item for only \$10 more per month. Little by little, this mushrooms and sets a person up for problems. Adding to the problem is the financing costs, which add significantly to the cost of the items purchased.

You must control the debt. If the debt begins to control you, then you are setting yourself up for potential disaster. Below are 10 simple rules for using debt wisely and safely.

**Save for major purchases.** Don't finance unless absolutely necessary. Set a goal of paying cash for vacations, cars, etc.

**Use credit cards as a convenience only.** Do not finance any long-term debt with credit cards. Pay credit card bills in full each month. Credit cards are easy to get and misuse. They generally have a very high interest rate. To carry a continuing monthly balance is a horrendous use of credit.

**Keep all debt payments under one-third of your gross income.** Above that level, you are exceeding safe limits.

**Lower the real cost of debt.** Try to make all interest tax-deductible. A home equity loan has this advantage.

**Maintain adequate assets that can easily be turned into cash.** Debt has never hurt anyone. A lack of sufficient cash flow to manage the debt has.

**Have adequate life and disability income insurance.** Ignoring this exposes a person to significant financial risk.

**Make debt predictable.** Be cautious using adjustable-rate financing and loans with balloon payments.

**Accelerating debt payments may not always be best.** One should maintain adequate savings for emergency needs, fund tax deferred retirement plans adequately, and pay off non-tax deductible debt before accelerating payments on other debts.

**Refinance only if it will save money.** Consolidation loans do not always save money.

**Protect your credit.** Don't abuse credit. Make payments on time. If you have problems meeting payments, talk to the creditors and renegotiate.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department

## Toys! Toys! Toys!

### Missions center sees prayer answered

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, Greg and Alice Whitetree were becoming increasingly concerned about the toy give away at the Freeda Harris Baptist Center in Elkhorn City.

The once-plentiful stream of donations seemed to be drying up as some of the center's faithful supporters through the years were no longer able to amass the number of toys the ministry had come to depend on. Others gave fewer toys, or seemed to disappear altogether.

"We began to talk about canceling the big toy give-away and trying to deliver the toys we had on hand," Whitetree confided in a Jan. 20 e-mail to supporters. "Some of the people who helped locally were disappointed that they would not be able to minister as they had in the past," he said.

He and Alice began praying about what God wanted them to do. "Silly me," Whitetree muses. "I had been assuming that God was in on the matter from the very beginning."

And, as they prayed, things began to happen.

A group from Georgia arrived delivering items they had collected for the clothes ministry, and the Whitetrees told them about possibly canceling the toy drive. About three days after that, their church called to say they wanted to help. They had already collected \$3,000 to purchase toys, but a week later that amount rose to \$8,000.

While the men in the church were filling buggies with toys at a local Wal-Mart, another miracle of sorts occurred. "A complete stranger came up and asked them what they were doing, and they told him about the need they were trying

to help with at the center in Kentucky," Whitetree recalls. The man began helping put toys in the buggies, and when they went to check out, he took cash out of his wallet to pay for the toys he had picked out. After he walked away, the men realized he had startled them so much, they failed to get his name, he adds.

Meanwhile, Eric Allen of the Kentucky Baptist Convention inquired about how things were going with the toy drive. At a missions committee meeting at the KBC offices, Allen shared about the bleak situation and possibility of cancellation.

Joy Bolton, LaRaine Rice and the Kentucky Baptist Woman's Missionary Union swung into action. Bolton put the word out on her blog, and people began to respond.

Bolton later called with the news that a van and a long-bed truck had been filled with toys to bring, and a woman from Winchester, who had read Bolton's blog, also called to say she was bringing toys.

Soon, toys began showing up from churches in Tennessee, California and Kentucky—though some of these were already in the works when the need became known.

In the end, children at the Freeda Harris Baptist Center had a very good Christmas. More than 1,277 children received one new and one used toy; 252 children received individually wrapped gifts; an estimated 1,400 shoeboxes were distributed, and two families were adopted.

"As I saw toys coming in from old friends and new, I wept. God is so good," Whitetree affirms. "I believe that the Lord said through this, 'OK, you have tried to do this on your own. Now stand back and see what I can do' ... along the Way.



## Along the Way

By Todd Deaton

## Learning to 'soften startups' helps curb toxic approach

By Scott Wigginton

**Q: My husband and I get along fine for the most part. Our problems occur when he comes home from work and I bring up something about which I am upset. He seems irritated and things escalate quickly. Shouldn't I be able to talk about things that bother me?**

Healthy couples develop the skill of conversing, even complaining, at appropriate times with one another. Often the critical dynamic is the timing. Cutting edge research done by John Gottman suggests that learning the art of a softened start-up is especially important for women when initiating these conversations with their husbands. Gottman's "Rules for Softened Start-up" include:

- Be concise. Briefly state the complaint.
- In the initial start-up complaint sentence, complain but don't blame.
- Start with something positive.
- Use "I" statements instead of "you" statements.
- Talk clearly about what you need.
- Be polite.
- Express appreciation for things your spouse is, or has been, doing right.
- Don't store things up.
- State your feelings in terms of more "vulnerable" emotions, like sadness and fear, rather than emotions more easily associated with resentment.

Partners must keep in mind that our goal with our spouses should be to "speak the truth in love" rather than to "love the truth we speak." Because husbands are especially sensitive to verbal and non-verbal hints or messages of disrespect, be careful to avoid the toxic approaches of criticism, contempt, and belligerence. Be aware that a snappy startup, tinged with the rolling of the eyes, a hint of blame, and a touch of sarcasm will bode poorly for respectful and substantive listening.

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## Unchurched or unsaved?

By Trevin Wax

Shelbyville, Tenn.—In 1914, Ernest Henry Shackleton led an expedition to cross the entire continent of Antarctica, but wound up shipwrecked on an uninhabited island. To rescue his team, Shackleton and a few of the men sailed a tiny boat across more than 800 miles of rough seas to South Georgia Island. Despite the cold choppy waters and gray skies, Shackleton was able to safely navigate the boat to their destination. If his coordinates had been off by even one half of one degree, his team would have missed their destination and likely would have perished.

Ship captains, airplane pilots and astronauts will be the first to tell you that the tiniest navigational error can have disastrous consequences. The same is true for those of us who have been commissioned to lead our churches. A seemingly insignificant shift in direction can have major implications.

In recent years, leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention have bemoaned the falling number of baptisms. Pastors, missionaries, professors and analysts all have offered a variety of reasons for why our numbers are declining, along with advice for how we might get back on track. But I wonder if one of the main reasons for the dwindling number of baptisms is represented by a subtle shift in vocabulary—so subtle that we might overlook it.

There was a time when we spoke of unsaved people as "lost and dying and on their way to hell"—a phrase that painted a vivid picture of the stakes of being outside of Christ. We spoke of unsaved people in this way for so long that such terminology became something of a cliché.

Today, it seems that many pastors and church members tend to shy away from terms like "lost," "unsaved," and "unbeliever." Instead, we speak of the people we are trying to reach as "unchurched."

I believe that this change in terminology betrays two mistaken beliefs:

First, it indicates that our people believe the goal of the church is to grow the church. Thus, evangelism becomes less about reaching the unsaved in order to see them get saved, and more about reaching unchurched people in order to get them churched (or even worse, reaching other-churched people in order to get them to our church). Outreach becomes little more than an attempt to sell people on the benefits of coming to church.

Furthermore, we are more comfortable reaching out to people with a Christian background than we are witnessing to Muslims and Hindus. In our increasingly multi-cultural world, it is much easier to reach the nominally "Christian" who already share our assumptions than the foreigners who are moving into our neighborhoods.

Secondly, our shift in vocabulary indicates a lessening of the eternal stakes of salvation.

Do we truly believe that Jesus is the only way to God? Do we truly believe that people outside of faith in Christ will perish eternally in hell? Do we truly believe that people who claim to be Christians and yet show no fruits of repentance have a false assurance of salvation? Do we truly believe that people of other faiths are "lost and dying and on their way to hell"?

If so, why do we lessen the stakes of evangelism by speaking in a way that emphasizes church attendance over salvation in Christ?

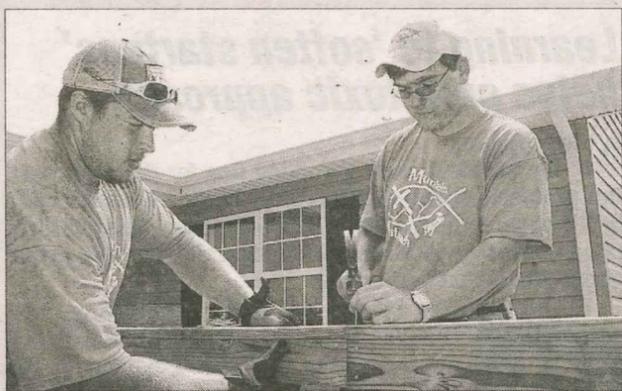
Of course, evangelism includes inviting people into our churches. But inviting people to church is not the goal; it is only one means whereby God may accomplish His mission of seeking and saving the lost.

So yes—we believe that people need what the church has to offer. But we are not called to sell others on the greatness of our church, but to proclaim the greatness of our Savior.

In the choppy waters of our postmodern, increasingly post-Christian society, staying on course is no easy task. Jesus told us the way is narrow.

If we need a course correction, let's do it now. Let's plead with lost people to flee to Jesus and escape the wrath to come. Let's focus evangelism and outreach on Jesus. Maybe then, we will see lost people be found, unsaved people get saved, condemned people be pardoned, and then (and only then) unchurched people be churched. (BP)

Trevin Wax is minister of education and missions at First Baptist Church of Shelbyville, Tenn.



**REACHING OUT** Two students install a brand-new wheelchair ramp at a home through University of the Cumberland's Mountain Outreach program, a student-led service organization that has helped hundreds of area residents with home repair projects and building new homes. The school was honored recently with a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

## Cumberlands gets national recognition for school's community service efforts

By Daphne Baird  
University of the Cumberland

**Williamsburg**—The Corporation for National and Community Service, an independent U.S. government agency, honored University of the Cumberland Feb. 9 with a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities.

"University of the Cumberland is truly honored to be selected as a presidential honor roll institution," said Cumberland President Jim Taylor. "This is a singular award about which we are justifiably proud."

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service learning and civic engagement. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of factors including scope and innovation of service projects; percentage of student participation in service activities; incentives for service; and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

University of the Cumberland has developed a special service and leadership program that requires a first-semester freshman orientation class called Insights, as well as a class in leadership during a student's junior year. Each UC student also must complete 40 documented community service hours in order to graduate. An optional 160 additional hours allow graduates to be honored as Hutton Scholars at commencement.

Cumberlands also is home to Mountain Outreach a student-led service organization, which, in the last 25 years, has built a total of 125 homes for area families and individuals, who—for financial or health reasons—are unable to provide safe, basic housing for themselves. The group also has built wheelchair ramps and provided much-needed home repairs and simple renovations for hundreds of local residents.

During the past two years, some Insights instructors even have integrated their classes into Mountain Outreach's fall renovation projects.

"I can think of no better way to expose students to UC's mission than to have them participate in Mountain Outreach and actually model and carry out the mission of serving people in our area," said Christopher Leskiw, a political science professor and Insights instructor.

Mountain Outreach also conducts two annual "gift days," which help many families celebrate Christmas by providing gifts, household and personal necessities, clothing and food. In 2008, more than 100 UC student volunteers participated in the gift day programs.

Additional volunteer service opportunities are available for students through Baptist Campus Ministries and Appalachian Ministries.

"In this time of economic distress, we need volunteers more than ever. College students represent an enormous pool of idealism and energy to help tackle some of our toughest challenges," noted Stephen Goldsmith, vice chair of the Corporation for National and Community Service's board of directors, which oversees the Honor Roll. "We salute University of the Cumberland for making community service a campus priority, and thank the millions of college students who are helping to renew America through service to others."

## Eastern Ky. pastors make clear they oppose Stumbo's plan to expand gambling in state

By Janet Patton  
Lexington Herald-Leader

**Prestonsburg**—Baptist ministers in Eastern Kentucky say they don't know whom House Speaker Greg Stumbo has been talking to about his gambling bill, but they have a message for him: They don't like it.

A group representing 26 churches primarily in Floyd, Magoffin, Martin and Johnson counties unanimously approved a resolution earlier this month opposing Stumbo's legislation to allow Kentucky racetracks to install electronic slot machines known as video lottery terminals.

The resolution, passed by Enterprise Baptist Association, said the bill "encourages a get-rich-quick mentality that undermines the work ethic and will ultimately cost our economy far more than it will ever produce."

The group of churches includes two that Stumbo, a Democrat from Prestonsburg, sometimes attends.

In a statement recently to the Herald-Leader, Stumbo said: "I never did seek, nor did I expect, church leaders to support any form of gaming, and I fully understand their resolution stating that belief. Those I spoke to in confidence made it clear they felt that way as well, but indicated their opposition would not be any stronger should my legislation pass. I certainly understand and respect their views."

The ministers were prompted to take action by comments Stumbo made at a hearing last month in Frankfort about the proposal.

"I'm a Southern Baptist, and I'm kind of proud of that. We're not known for our liberal ideas; as a matter of fact, we're in most circles considered to be pretty conservative. But I have spoken with members of my church, including pastors in various churches in my community, and we've talked about this bill," Stum-

bo told the House Licensing and Occupations Committee on Jan. 21. "What I hear my preachers saying in my communities (is) that, 'Well, you know, we can't really be for more gambling but this isn't really an expansion of gambling as such because there are already people at these facilities that are engaged in that process.'"

"I was terribly disappointed by it and I didn't think it was a very honest statement," said Randy Osborne, pastor of First Baptist Church of Garrett. "I think he's trying to soften the argument down, to say if pastors and churches are not against it that it might not be too bad."

Osborne's message to the General Assembly: "We don't want this. We're just in total opposition to this."

Stumbo argued that since the slot machines would be controlled by the state lottery board, they would not entail new gambling.

"We're not talking about expanding gaming beyond where gaming is already taking place," Stumbo told the legislative committee. "Because to me it's no different than if the lottery chooses to put a new game out. ... It's not really an expansion of gaming, it's just a new form of gaming."

But the ministers in the group don't see it that way.

"It is a form of expanded gambling," said Jerry Workman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Prestonsburg, where Stumbo sometimes attends. Workman said he has not spoken to Stumbo about the bill.

"We want to make that known to everyone that as Southern Baptist ministers we do have a problem with it," Workman said. "We're not in favor of it in any way. We do feel strongly about it."

Tom Biddle, director of missions for Enterprise Association, said that the ministers oppose the lottery it-

self as well as the racetrack proposal, which Stumbo said in five years could generate \$340 million annually in tax revenue for the state.

"The resounding thing (Monday) night was that yes, we are very much opposed to this," Biddle said. He added their objections are partly biblical but partly economic.

"The money it would take to be gambled for the state to make the revenue that they claim it's going to make is tremendous," Biddle explained. "And the families who will be doing that are families that could not afford to be losing money at that rate."

One longtime opponent of expanded gambling was glad to see the Baptist ministers make their position clear.

"I thought at the time, 'What a load of baloney,'" said Nancy Jo Kemper, executive director of the Kentucky Council of Churches, of Stumbo's comments about the lack of church opposition. "That was a statement devised to deflect the kinds of important moral considerations that should go on as the legislature considers any piece of legislation. All legislation has moral issues attached to it. ... Does this kind of economic activity really promote the good of Kentuckians?"

### Slots bill update

Last week, the House Licensing and Occupations Committee approved a slightly revised version of the Stumbo's racetrack slots bill.

However, the Louisville Courier-Journal reported Feb. 13 that the bill may be in jeopardy of passing a House vote. Stumbo has maintained he would not push the bill if it is not guaranteed to receive at least 60 votes.

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## 'God is in control,' Rainer tells trustees

By Chris Turner  
*LifeWay Christian Resources*

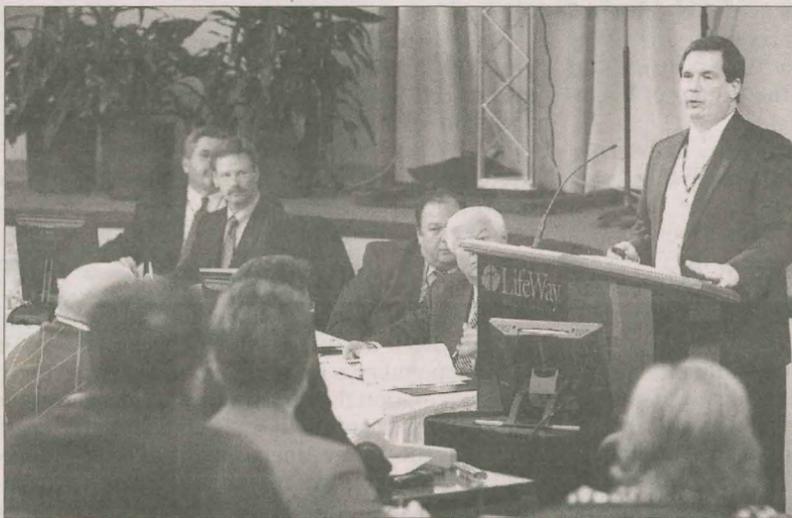
**Nashville**—President Thom Rainer matter-of-factly addressed trustees Monday night and explained the challenges facing LifeWay Christian Resources in a sinking economy.

"If there is one thing I know for certain tonight it is that God is in control," he said.

Rainer began by saying the struggling economy likely will not improve before LifeWay moves into a new fiscal year Oct. 1. At the same time, he said LifeWay is doing well given the economic climate, and difficult decisions last year to reduce the company's workforce and trim expenses are proving helpful.

"This is the toughest time LifeWay has known," he said. "Even during the Great Depression we had a loyal Southern Baptist base we could count on. Times have changed. Church practices have changed and we are not immune to the greater economic realities. However, God has been gracious to us and I believe He is going to guide us through this tough time."

Rainer referenced Deuteronomy 34 and Joshua 1, which record the death of Moses and remind God's people that their earthly leader is gone. Israel is at an obvious crisis moment as Joshua takes leadership. God commands Joshua to be strong and courageous and then tells Moses' successor, "Do not be afraid or discouraged for the Lord your God



**REPORT CARD** LifeWay President Thom Rainer presents his report to trustees during their semiannual meeting in Nashville. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9; HCSB).

Rainer referenced a recent quote by billionaire investor Warren Buffett that "the U.S. is engaged in an economic Pearl Harbor," but added that LifeWay can learn some lessons from that fateful 1941 event. He briefly recapped that day of infamy and said that for the Japanese it proved to be a short-term tactical victory but a clear strategic failure because it drew the United States into war, which led to an eventual defeat of the Axis powers.

"People did not know if they could recover from Dec. 7, 1941," he said. "I am not saying the economy

can compare to the loss of lives, but, like then, many are asking if there is hope. Many are looking to you for encouragement. They are asking where God is in this. I see great possibilities in the face of these times."

Among the lessons to be learned, Rainer urged putting trust in God.

"We need to go back to the endless promises of Scripture and draw confidence from what God says," Rainer said. "We are facing the Great Depression, and possibly greater than that according to some. But we do not face that alone. The Lord our God is with us wherever we go. God is in control."

### BAPTIST DIGEST

**George Beverly Shea turns 100**—George Beverly Shea, the legendary soloist who ministered alongside evangelist Billy Graham for decades, celebrated his 100th birthday Feb. 1 at the Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove in Asheville, N.C. Graham, music director Cliff Barrows and gospel music icons Bill and Gloria Gaitner attended the private event in Shea's honor. Shea, a Grammy award winner and a member of the Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame, began singing with Graham on a Chicago radio hymn program in 1943.

**Seminary offers D.Min. degree to Spanish speakers**—Spanish-speaking students now can pursue doctoral studies in their own language at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The seminary's new missions and leadership concentration within the doctor of ministry program answers a need expressed by state convention leaders intent on reaching a growing Hispanic population. Six students will make up the initial class who will begin seminars March 16-20.

**Baptists offer bushfire assistance**—Baptists in Australia have established an emergency relief fund to aid persons affected by the worst natural disaster in the history of the southeastern state of Victoria. Bushfires that started on Feb. 7 have claimed more than 180 lives, with at least 80 persons missing, and have destroyed more than 900 homes. Three closely related Baptist bodies, Baptcare, the Baptist Union of Victoria (BUV), and the Baptist Union of Australia (BUA), established an Emergency Bushfire Relief Fund with an initial grant of AUS \$50,000.

**GuideStone releases tax guide**—Ministers can receive additional help in preparing their federal income tax returns from GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. The annual Ministers Tax Guide for 2008 Returns details recent changes to tax laws and their effect on ministers. The free tax guide includes sample tax returns with step-by-step instructions for ministers, as well as a special pull-out section regarding the federal reporting requirements for churches. The guide can be obtained from the GuideStone Web site, [www.GuideStone.org](http://www.GuideStone.org).

## Page hopeful, cautious about council

By Tom Strode & Yvette Raltray

**Washington**—Former Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page is both concerned and encouraged as he begins service on a new panel that will advise President Barack Obama on faith-based and community issues.

Page, who completed two years as SBC president in 2008, is one of 25 people who will be serving on the President's Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. The council members will serve one-year terms. The advisers were named Feb. 5 as part of the restructured and newly named White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships under President Obama.

While acknowledging there are "very few conservatives on the council," Page told Baptist Press he hopes the viewpoints held by him and others in that category will gain a hearing.

"I did and do have concerns," said Page, pastor of First Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C. "I do ask Baptists to pray for me as I try to bring to the table what I believe is a conservative, biblical viewpoint."

Page prayed and sought counsel after he was asked by Joshua DuBois, the new executive director of the faith-based office, to join the council, he said. He has received assurances the president wants him to express his views, Page said.

He said he decided if he "were at the table, I might have a voice that is heard," Page told BP. "If I feel I am being used as a token conservative, I will resign."

Page asked Baptists to pray he would have wisdom and boldness, as well as discernment to know if he needs to step down.

He approaches the opportunity with encouragement and hope as well, Page said.

On the same day the advisory council was named, Obama signed an executive order making some significant changes in what was established

by President George W. Bush as the Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives. The order widens the revamped office's assignment to four priorities that involve both religious and secular organizations:

- To give community groups a vital role in economic recovery and subsequently in alleviating poverty;
- To help the administration "support women and children, address teenage pregnancy and reduce the need for abortion;"
- To support "responsible fatherhood;"
- To work with the National Security Council in promoting interfaith dialogue globally.

Page is encouraged because two of those priorities—reducing abortions and solving the crisis in fatherhood—"strike close to my heart," he said.

"My hopes are that the council will help provide direction for the president as regards the faith issue and that he will truly honor" faith-based groups and "let them be who they are" in relation to their hiring practices and service, Page said.

### Hiring, proselytizing

The Obama administration did not draw a clear line on the question of whether organizations can limit hiring to applicants of their specific faith while receiving federal funds to provide social services. Nor did it make clear whether religious organizations could evangelize or proselytize those it serves. The executive order specifies the office's executive director will work through the White House counsel to gain advice from the attorney general on constitutional issues, according to the administration.

"The goal of this office will not be to favor one religious group over another—or even religious groups over secular groups," Obama said at the National Prayer Breakfast in announcing the office earlier Feb. 5. "It will simply be to work on behalf of those organizations that want to work on behalf of communities and to do so without blurring the line that our founders wisely drew between church and state." (BP)



Frank Page

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# President Obama guarantees reversal of stem-cell policy

By Tom Strode

Washington—President Barack Obama has promised Democratic lawmakers he will issue an executive order reversing former President George W. Bush's ban on federal funds for stem-cell research that destroys human embryos.

"I guarantee you that we will sign an executive order for stem cells," the president told Democrats in the House of Representatives attending a retreat earlier this month in Williamsburg, Va. The Washington Times reported Obama's comments, citing three sources in the closed-door meeting who asked to remain anonymous.

While Obama's support for government funding of embryonic stem-cell research is well known, a question had developed since his Jan. 20 inauguration about whether he would actually use an executive order. There seemed to be some indication he might decline that method of rescinding the Bush policy and allow Congress to deal with the issue.

At the Democratic retreat, Obama endorsed congressional action as well, saying

a legislative measure is needed to prevent a future president from reversing the policy again, according to The Times. Obama said he would coordinate the timing of his order's release with Congress.

"President Obama's promise is extremely disappointing but not surprising," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "... Obama's action forces Americans who find such research both barbaric and repugnant to subsidize it with their tax money.

"Reduced to its basics, killing the tiniest human beings in their embryonic stage of development for the possible medical benefits of older and more developed human beings is quite simply high-tech cannibalism in which we devour our own young for the sole purpose of treating other human beings who are merely fortunate enough to be older and able to defend themselves in a way the tiniest human beings are not."

Stem cells are the body's master cells that can develop into other cells and tissues, providing hope for the development

of cures for a variety of diseases.

Bush issued an executive order in August 2001 barring the use of federal funds in stem-cell research that results in the destruction of human embryos. Extracting stem cells from an embryo destroys the donor. Congress twice approved legislation to overturn Bush's policy, but the president vetoed both bills. Efforts to override the vetoes failed.

The ESCR funding ban is undergirded by a 1996 federal law that prohibits federal funds from being used for the creation of human embryos for research, as well as experimentation that destroys or threatens the health or life of embryos. That measure, known as the Dickey Amendment, has been subject to various interpretations, according to Douglas Johnson, legislative director of the National Right to Life Committee.

A legal challenge could ensue if Obama rescinds the ESCR funding ban, with supporters of the Bush policy arguing in court the Obama order violates the Dickey Amendment, Johnson said.

The Dickey Amendment is part of the

annual spending bill for the Department of Health and Human Services, so Congress has to approve it each year for it to remain in effect. The measure is named after its sponsor, former Republican Rep. Jay Dickey of Arkansas.

Not only is ESCR lethal for the non-voluntary donor, but embryonic stem cells have yet to provide treatments for any diseases in human beings. They also have been plagued by the development of tumors in lab animals.

Unlike research using embryos, extracting stem cells from non-embryonic sources—such as umbilical cord blood, placenta, fat and bone marrow—does not harm donors and has nearly universal support. Such research has produced treatments for at least 73 human ailments, according to Do No Harm, a coalition promoting ethics in research.

In the last 15 months especially, scientists have discovered ways of converting non-embryonic stem cells into cells that have nearly the identical properties of embryonic ones. (BP)

## NATIONAL NOTES

**Louisiana passes Academic Freedom Act**—The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted unanimously last month to approve rules implementing the Louisiana Science Education Act, an academic freedom bill passed by the state's legislature last summer. The law allows local school boards to approve supplemental materials to encourage critical thinking in the teaching of science, but the state board retains the right to ban locally approved materials. A subcommittee of the board removed language prohibiting the mention of intelligent design in the classroom before passing the rules. The legislation encourages students to evaluate the merits of scientific topics such as evolution, human cloning and global warming, and it requires teachers in Louisiana public schools to use state-approved science textbooks in addition to any supplemental materials.

**La. prison agrees to remove Bible reference**—Officials at a Louisiana prison have agreed to remove a biblical reference from a monument outside the prison gates. Cathy Fontenot, a spokeswoman at the maximum-security State Penitentiary at Angola, said officials submitted work orders to have what was known as the "Philippians Monument" stripped of the religious references after a complaint was lodged last year by the Louisiana arm of the American Civil Liberties Union. The monument featured a verse taken from Philippians 3:13. Fontenot said the language will remain, but the verse's citation will be removed. On the opposite side of the book-like monument, there was a "Prayer of Protection," which the ACLU complained about and also is being removed.

**Wyoming House defeats marriage amendment**—The Wyoming House of Representatives defeated a constitutional marriage amendment Feb. 6, a disappointing outcome for supporters, who had hoped to see Wyoming join the list of 30 states that already have adopted such amendments. Needing a two-thirds majority to pass and go to the Senate, the amendment received 25 votes for it and 35 votes against. If it had passed both bodies it would have been placed on the 2010 ballot. A December poll showed 74 percent of registered voters likely would vote for a marriage amendment.

**Warren, Reader's Digest make 'connection'**—Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., has launched a quarterly magazine called "Purpose Driven Connection," along with a bundle of personal growth tools designed for small group implementation. Warren noted that the timing of the launch coincides with the collapse of the U.S. economy, a time when Americans may most be searching for true hope. The 146-page magazine is being published by The Reader's Digest Association with an annual subscription rate of \$29.99. Also included is a DVD of Warren teaching, along with discussion guides, access to a corresponding online social network, daily e-mail devotions and other tools. The magazines can be found on newsstands, at bookstores and at national retail outlets.

## New stimulus bill criticized for religion bias

Washington—The House of Representatives version of the economic stimulus package in negotiations last week includes a provision critics say will require discrimination against religious faith on college campuses.

A section of the \$819 billion measure approved by the House makes \$3.5 billion available for the renovation of university and college facilities, but bars those buildings from being used for religious worship or instruction. One of the effects would be to bar Bible studies and worship meetings by Christian and other religious student groups in facilities that have undergone repairs or modernization work underwritten by stimulus funds.

Both the Senate and House approved stimulus packages, but there were significant differences between

the two bills. Negotiations to produce a final bill proceeded last week between representatives from both chambers.

One of the differences is the ban on religious use of buildings modernized or repaired with stimulus funds. The Senate removed the House language when it approved a substitute version crafted by Sens. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., and Susan Collins, R-Maine. The substitute cut funds for renovation of college facilities in order to reduce the overall cost of the bill.

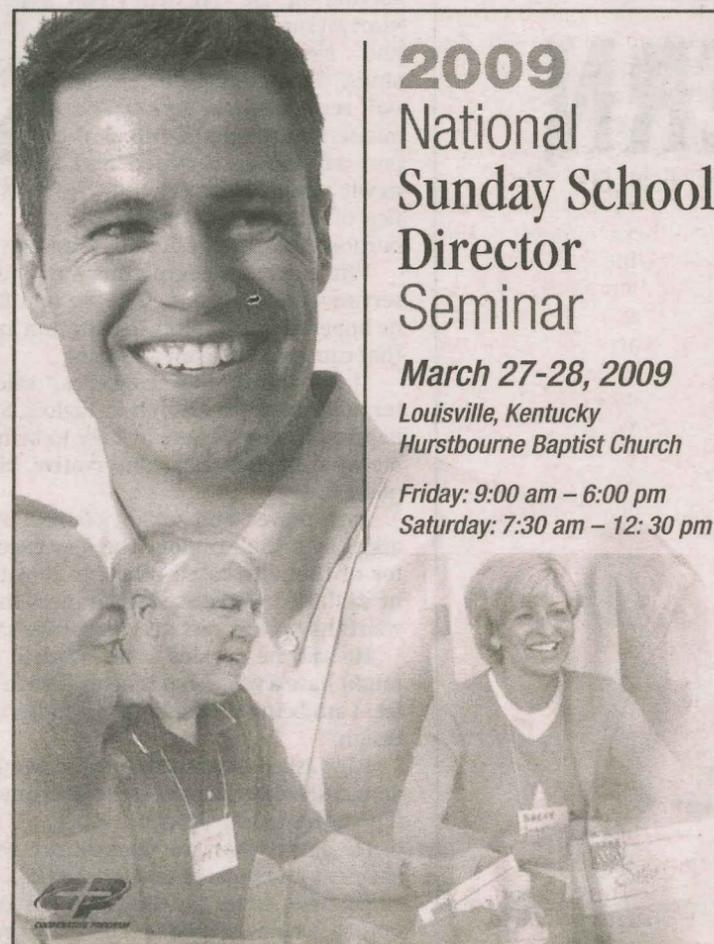
The American Center for Law and Justice promised it would challenge the controversial provision in federal court if it is in the final bill that becomes law.

"This is an unacceptable provision that clearly discriminates against religious organizations that

have a legal right to use those facilities," ACLJ Chief Counsel Jay Sekulow said. "This is not what 'economic stimulus' is about. We know that the American people don't want their tax dollars used for discriminatory measures."

Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., sought to remove the language when it was still in the version under consideration by the Senate, but senators rejected his amendment Feb. 5. The Senate voted 54-43 against his attempt to strike the language in question. Four Democrats and an independent joined 38 GOP members in supporting DeMint's amendment. Two Republicans voted with 51 Democrats and an independent in opposing it.

After his amendment failed, DeMint called the provision "a direct attack on students of faith." (BP)



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**A HEART FOR TEENS** Kimberly and Daniel Goombi (at the right end of the table) share and discuss the gospel with teenagers at one of the four Native American reservations the MSC missionary couple ministers to in Kansas. (NAMB photo by Erik Stenbakken)

## Goombis share gospel with Kansas' Native Americans

Continued from page 1

Daniel and Kimberly are only two of more than 5,500 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions and the Cooperative Program. The couple is among the NAMB missionaries featured as part of the annual Week of Prayer March 1-8.

As MSC missionaries, the Goombis must raise their own support among family, friends and related churches. Although they are self-funded, they also receive additional support—such as training, administrative support and field-ministry assistance—from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Daniel became a Christian at 8 years old, during a revival service led by his dad in Omaha, Neb. Although he lived there most of the time, Daniel recalled that “we pretty much grew up on the reservations.”

Ministering on Native American reservations is both heartbreaking and difficult, according to Goombi. Every tribe in Kansas is different—each has its own language, heritage, culture and beliefs.

“There are a lot of single-parent families with single mothers or even grandparents raising their grandkids. Alcohol, drug abuse and suicide are big issues. People are secluded from the outside world and when you’re on a reservation, you’re limited to what’s around you and it’s really not much.

“The spiritual climate on the reservations is difficult,” Goombi added, “because Native Americans have a misconception of who we believers are. They think they have to give up who they are to follow God, and they believe God is still a white man’s God because of the history Native Americans experienced with organized religion.”

Goombi said he reassures his peers that “God has blessed us Native Americans with who we are, with our heritage, and would never take that away from us.”

Goombi’s heartbreak came when he learned early on that on some reservations half a century had passed without Native American children having a church or even a vacation Bible school to attend. Goombi changed that in 2006.

“The first time we held vaca-

tion Bible school for the Prairie Band Tribe, a lot of the elders of the tribe told us that it had been 50 years since an outside organization or church had come on the reservation,” Goombi recalled. “That’s 50 years of children growing, living their lives and dying without a chance to hear about God.”

He said, for the most part, there are no reservations with Bible-based churches that meet on a regular basis. They gather now and then when a visiting pastor comes through. But as a church planter for his association, Goombi wants to plant permanent churches on the reservations.

Parents of two daughters, Elizabeth and Sophia, the Goombis have a real soft spot for Native American children on the reservations.

At the Prairie Band Potawatomi Indian Reservation near Mayetta, Kan., Daniel recently played dodge ball, football and basketball with the kids there. Kimberly spent time making “salvation bracelets,” teaching and singing with the girls.

“The kids on the reservation are really receptive to what we are doing,” Daniel noted. “It’s amazing to see the kids grow, learn church songs and go home and sing them to their parents, who notice how their kids are changing.

“Working with the kids helps us get to the families and get into the homes,” he explained. “The parents start asking questions and start coming around, and we’re able to share the gospel with them through their kids.”

Because it’s usually only he and Kimberly who cover the four Kansas reservations, Daniel pleads for help from other Southern Baptist volunteers around the United States.

“In addition to Kansas, there are more than 450 tribes recognized by the federal government,” Goombi pointed out. “So many of these tribes are going unreached. We want to encourage churches and associations to remember these needs and take action.”

Kimberly agreed. “When people think of missions, they always think of Africa or foreign countries. But reservations are like foreign countries,” she said. “They are their own sovereign nations. The people on reservations live differently and speak other languages.



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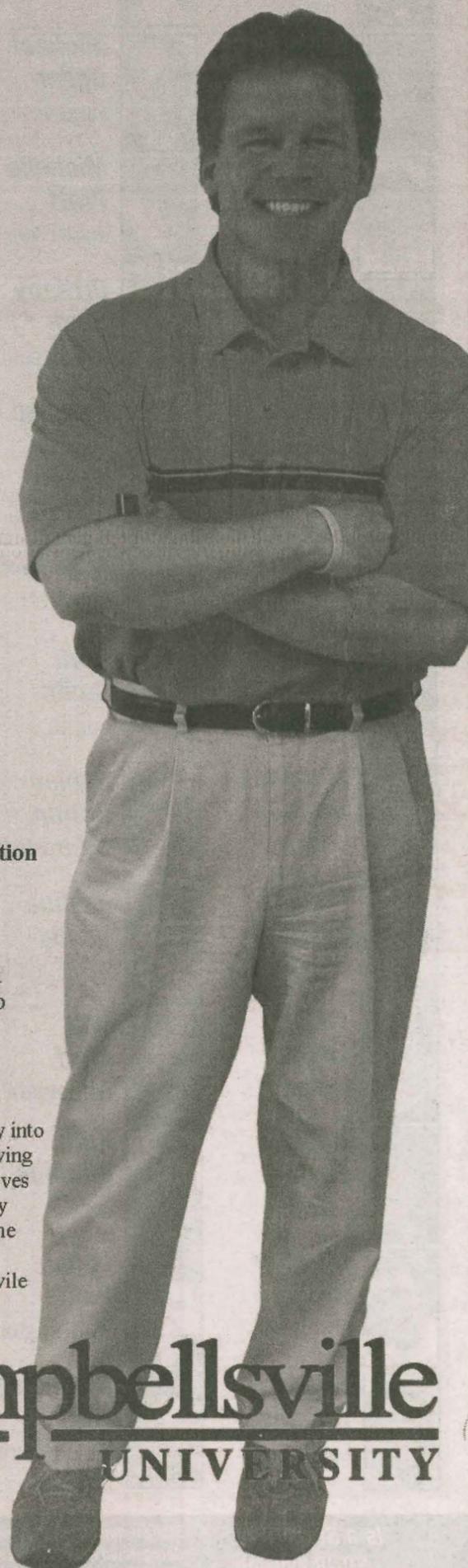
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**Andrew Russell**  
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Owenton



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**Matthew Sanders**  
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Richmond



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Somerset



**Erika Dobbs**  
Somerset



**April Smith**  
Corbin



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Lawrenceburg



**Natalie Olp**  
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## Kentucky Baptist Foundation support

**Language is very important when designating KBF gifts**

As one would expect, most of the gifts to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation are for the benefit of one or more charitable organizations; they are not for the benefit of the KBF. This is consistent with the mission of the KBF as a fiduciary, which receives 43 percent of its support from the Cooperative Program.

From time to time, we do, however, receive gifts from individuals who want to directly support the ongoing ministry of the Foundation, including gifts by bequest or beneficiary designation of a life insurance policy or retirement account. For the KBF to receive 100 percent of the benefit of such gifts, the donor needs to make sure the language in the bequest or beneficiary designation makes clear that it is intended for the 100-percent benefit of the KBF.

Normally, the governing board of "XYZ Charity" determines the use of any undesignated gifts to that charity. However, in the case of gifts that simply state to "Kentucky Baptist Foundation," the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board, not the KBF govern-

ing board, approves the uses of such gifts. In the past, the Mission Board has approved the Cooperative Program as the beneficiary of such gifts. In such instances, the KBF receives 2 percent versus 100 percent of the benefit.

Therefore, it is important for those of you who desire to directly support the ministry of the KBF, to use the proper language to ensure the KBF receives the benefit you intend. Here are two examples of the proper language to use:

■ To the Kentucky Baptist Foundation for the benefit and use of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

■ To the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, the use of which to be determined by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation Board of Directors.

To those of you who have or will include this ministry in your estate plan, please make sure the language in your estate-planning documents clearly states your intentions. To the extent we can be helpful, please call us toll free, and accept our sincere gratitude for your direct support.

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, PO Box 436389, Louisville, KY 40253; toll-free (866) 489-3533; [www.kybaptistfoundation.org](http://www.kybaptistfoundation.org)



Barry Allen

## For Heaven's Sake



## Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



## Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

### Across

- 1 "I will go before thee, and ... cut in sunder the \_\_\_ of iron" (Isaiah 45:2)
- 4 "For now we see through a \_\_\_, darkly" (1 Corinthians 13:12)
- 8 Optometrist's degree (abbr.)
- 10 "There followed \_\_\_ and fire mingled with blood" (Revelation 8:7)
- 12 "It is appointed unto men once to \_\_\_" (Hebrews 9:27)
- 13 One of twenty-six
- 14 Printer's measure
- 16 "\_\_\_ for them that despitefully use you" (Matthew 5:44)
- 18 "They that sow in tears shall \_\_\_ in joy" (Psalm 126:5)
- 20 Slangy negative reply
- 22 First garden
- 24 "The nations are as a \_\_\_ of a bucket" (Isaiah 40:15)
- 26 Relative of 911
- 28 Was a pathfinder
- 30 "It is a people that do \_\_\_ in their heart" (Psalm 95:10)
- 31 Cream of the crop
- 32 Courtroom verb
- 34 Note in diatonic scale
- 35 "The \_\_\_ of mine apostleship" (1 Corinthians 9:2)
- 37 "Who ... cometh from Edom, with \_\_\_ garments?" (Isaiah 63:1)
- 39 Simile syntax
- 41 "Let them learn first to shew \_\_\_ at home" (1 Timothy 5:4)
- 43 "Father, glorify thy \_\_\_" (John 12:28)
- 45 Sault \_\_\_ Marie
- 47 Chafed, as skin
- 48 Feminine nickname
- 49 Tattled, with "on"
- 51 Become bored
- 54 Cave dweller

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
		10	11		12			13	
14	15		16		17	18	19		
20	21		22		23	24		25	
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		35		36		37		38	
39	40		41		42		43	44	
45		46		47			48		
49			50		51	52	53	54	55
	56			57		58		59	60
61			62		63		64		65
66			67					68	

- 56 Presumptime priority
- 58 Partner of dear
- 60 Dr. \_\_\_ (I. Fleming work)
- 61 Land-grant college department (abbr.)
- 62 Hula-Hoop, for one
- 64 Epochs
- 66 Western state (abbr.)
- 67 "\_\_\_ yourselves unto God" (Romans 6:13)
- 68 Created

### Down

- 1 "\_\_\_ there, done that"
- 2 Blood factor
- 3 "The trees of the Lord are full of \_\_\_" (Psalm 104:16)
- 4 Bag or rags
- 5 Classified, for one
- 6 Title of address
- 7 "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious \_\_\_" (Psalm 126:6)
- 8 Send home
- 9 Beast of burden
- 11 Anger
- 15 Win by a \_\_\_
- 17 Give a holler
- 19 Linking verb
- 21 Coin \_\_\_
- 23 "Open thy hand wide unto ... thy \_\_\_" (Deuteronomy 15:11)
- 25 Conceit

- 27 "There is but a \_\_\_ between me and death" (1 Samuel 20:3)
- 29 "A \_\_\_ in thy courts is better than a thousand" (Psalm 84:10)
- 31 "Every \_\_\_ of the forest is mine" (Psalm 50:10)
- 32 Fold
- 33 Cubs' coves
- 36 Tune, melody
- 38 To coat with slime and pitch (Exodus 2:3)
- 40 Uninteresting
- 42 Jacob, to Esau
- 44 "A Jew of Tarsus ... a citizen of no \_\_\_ city" (Acts 21:39)
- 46 Father of Hophni and Phineas
- 50 "The Philistine said, I \_\_\_ the armies of Israel" (1 Samuel 17:10)
- 52 "A bruised \_\_\_ shall he not break" (Isaiah 42:3)
- 53 "Incline thine \_\_\_ unto me and hear my speech" (Psalm 17:6)
- 55 Sped like the wind
- 57 \_\_\_ chi, ancient Asian art of controlled exercise
- 59 What Abraham saw caught in a thicket (Genesis 22)
- 61 Exclamation of disappointment
- 63 Bethany Beach state (abbr.)
- 65 Continent (abbr.)

### Last week's solution

L	I	T	E	R	I	C	D	R	O	P
E	R	A	K	O	O	L	A	C	R	E
T	A	B	R	E	T	A	R	M	G	A
			L	A	D	C	I	D	M	A
O	B	E	Y	G	Y	M	B	A	N	S
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E	V	E	R	E	V	E	N	E	A	R
S	E	A	T	D	I	N	E	D	Y	E



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## 'Love Dare' journal challenges couples

By Kelly Shrout  
LifeWay Christian Resources

**Hendersonville, Tenn.**—John and Paula Thomas had been married 24 years when they separated. She wanted forgiveness and peace for both of them. He wanted a divorce.

"Our marriage was in shambles and my husband believed that even God couldn't put our marriage back together," Paula recalled. "Yet, after a six-month separation, the Lord put a halt to our divorce proceedings."

That was five years ago. Today, the Thomases help couples in crisis realize God's plan for their marriages.

"When we were going through the hard times, we realized we simply didn't know each other," Paula said. "So many other couples are the same way."

After much prayer and searching the Scripture, God restored the Thomases' marriage. "Not only did God restore our marriage, He made it stronger and more precious than ever before."

In 2005, the couple renewed their vows. In 2007, they began sharing their story, and last year, Paula said God blessed her marriage with "The Love Dare."

"The Love Dare," as featured in the movie "Fireproof," is a 40-day Scripture-based journey that helps couples learn to truly love one another.

"When struggling couples come to us for help, I always point them to Scripture and now I also give them a copy of 'The Love Dare,'" Paula said.

Couples embarking on "The Love Dare" read a short devotional and complete a complementing challenge—or dare—based on that day's Scripture.

"When we got 'The Love Dare,' we began with day one and we didn't skip a day," she recalled. "Through the book we have learned to respect each other, pray together and listen to one another."

The Thomases, who attend Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tenn., now spend more time talking than watching television, and said they have learned to forgive the past.

"If couples read the lessons and complete the dares with genuine, sincere hearts, God will turn their marriage around," she explained. "Couples have to be intentional about the 40-day challenge and let God work in their lives. They have to stay on their knees, and halfway through the book they won't be thinking about divorce anymore."

The book began as a plot element in "Fireproof," which was released in theaters last September. Kirk Cameron played a firefighter whose marriage was headed for divorce. Cameron's character received "The Love Dare" book from his on-screen father, and the book played a significant role in saving his marriage.

"In the movie pre-screenings, the audience left the theater asking, 'Where can I get that book?'" noted Andrea Dennis, trade publishing representative for B&H Publishing Group.

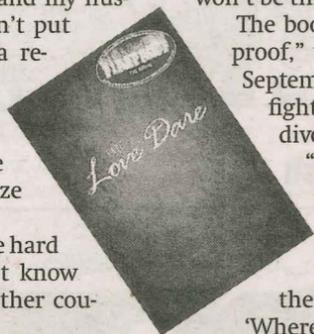
B&H joined forces with brothers Stephen and Alex Kendrick, writers of the movie, to produce "The Love Dare" resource.

"This book is a tool God is using to improve marriages around the nation," said Dennis, who also coordinates [www.ShareTheLoveDare.com](http://www.ShareTheLoveDare.com), an online forum for users to anonymously share how God is working in their lives through the book.

"We have almost daily received testimonies from those using 'The Love Dare' about how God is changing their marriages," Dennis said. "It teaches couples how to love and how to communicate with each other."

"We're finding that people are pouring out their hearts on [ShareTheLoveDare.com](http://ShareTheLoveDare.com)—and oftentimes their pain," noted John Thompson, B&H senior vice president of marketing. "Those who are active on the site and are almost finished with the 40-day challenge will encourage those who are really hurting."

Thompson described "The Love Dare" as a marriage movement, and said the message of the film and the book represent Christ's love for the church.



## Frown now ... smile later

### Oneida students know attending class in bad weather does have its benefits

Adjustment to living in a boarding school can cause a lot of anxiety for the average middle- or high-school student. They must learn to live with two or three new roommates and eat food prepared by cooks who don't cook like mom—and mom always would cook their favorite foods. Even something as simple as a 10 p.m. bedtime can be a real adjustment for boys and girls who have been in the habit of staying up until 11 p.m. or later.

Few things, however, catch the new student off guard more than having a two-, three- or four-inch snowfall and still going to school. I monitor breakfast every morning. It is my way of keeping in touch with my students. I always am amused when a new student asks if we are having school that day. Though I know why he or she is asking, I always act confused and reply, "Why wouldn't we have school?"

Normally, with a very serious expression, the response is, "Well, there is a foot (actually only a few inches) of snow on the ground. How can we have school?"

We do have classes in 10 different buildings, and our students walk from place to place. The dining room is right in the middle of our relatively small campus. If students can make it through the "foot" of snow to get to the dining room, it is presumed they can get to their classes.

I know new students do not understand my explanation and I always watch them as they return to their seats. They ask others at the table,

"Is it really true that we have school today?" The others are likely to laugh and keep eating without comment.

When the new student insists on knowing, with big smiles the others will assure him or her that, "Yes, we are going to have school today."

You can understand that the new student has likely just lost his appetite and is sure he is the brunt of a silly joke. It is with complete disbelief that he finds himself sitting in class a few minutes later with a "foot" of snow on the ground and it's still snowing outside.

Well, we didn't have a "foot" of snow. In fact, we had very little snow during the past few weeks. And we did not have the freezing rain, sleet or ice that most of Kentucky had.

Even before the big storm, the local county school had missed a week because of bad weather. Then the big storm hit and they missed another week. For those two weeks, our students

have been in class every day and have not missed one minute of school. Our day students struggle too, because if they were going to the county school instead of OBI they would have been out of school for two weeks.

I can only think of two days in the past 30 years when we didn't have school because of extremely bad weather. But the payoff for our students will come this spring. Lord willing, school will let out May 15.

At this time, most students in Kentucky now are scheduled to have school through early June. My students are frowning now, but they will be smiling in May.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)



W.F. Underwood

## Late bloomer finds his way

### Coffman excited to be a student at Clear Creek

"I'm a little bit of a late bloomer to college life," said first-year student Dwight Coffman. At 52, he is a "little" beyond even the average age of our students, which is about 32.

"I was saved at the age of 17," Dwight recalled. "I joined the military at 18 and I began to drift in my walk with the Lord. I came home in the closing days of the Vietnam War era. I met and married my wife and then went through a time of searching and seeking as far as my relationship with the Lord. I knew I was not where

I needed to be. By God's grace He brought me back into that fellowship.

"I answered the call from God to ministry in 1979," Dwight said. "I knew there was a need for some formal ministry training. But I listened to some who told me that all I needed to do was just get out there and preach. ... So, I have spent the last 25 years being a student of the Word. But I knew in my heart I really needed this formal setting to sharpen me and get me to the place where God wants me to be. I see Clear Creek as the place where God has brought me to take a lot of the bits and pieces of information I now

have and put them in order."

The call to pastor a local church has once again instilled in Dwight the need for training. "The Lord called me to pastor Creston Baptist Church in Casey County after 10 years of evangelism ministry," Dwight said. "God renewed my interest in some formal training after He revealed to me that I was preaching to people to prepare them for their Christian walk."

"So I began to talk to some people about Clear Creek and God began to open the door for me to come here," Dwight noted. "The class schedules ... make it easier for someone like me who is already involved in doing ministry. With their commuter schedule I can leave my home on Thursday morning and be back home Friday."

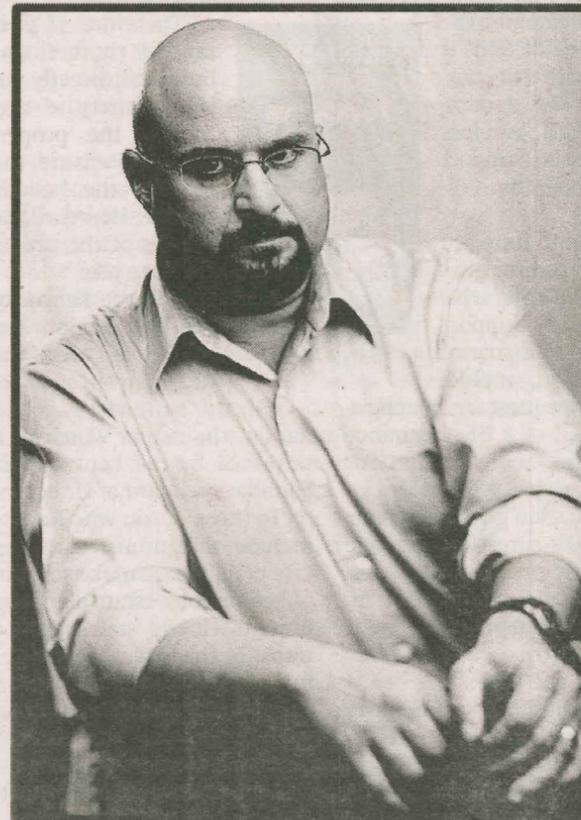
So what kind of advice would Dwight give to someone who is thinking about ministry training? "It doesn't matter what age you are," he insisted. "The Lord is not through with us until He calls us home. If God is leading you to pursue that training, do it."

Donnie Fox is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977; toll-free: (866) 340-3196; Web site: [www.cccb.edu](http://www.cccb.edu); e-mail: [dfox@ccb.edu](mailto:dfox@ccb.edu)

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Donnie Fox



First Baptist Church of Somerset  
welcomes

**Dr. Ergun Caner**

President, Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary

February 22 9 and 11 a.m.

Everyone is invited to worship with us

## True Love Waits still nurtures abstinence until marriage

Nashville—The True Love Waits abstinence-until-marriage movement has recorded numerous milestones since its launch by LifeWay Christian Resources nearly 15 years ago.

The first True Love Waits national celebration took place in July 1994, when more than 210,000 covenant cards signed by teens were displayed on the National Mall in Washington.

Since then, an estimated 2.5 to 3 million youth have signed commitment cards pledging sexual purity until their wedding day, and that number continues to grow worldwide. Hundreds of thousands of commitment cards from youth throughout the world have been displayed at several events, including the 2004 Olympics in Athens. More than 100 organizations have adopted the use of True Love Waits to promote sexual abstinence.

Despite the progress, much work remains to be done, according to True Love Waits co-founder Jimmy Hester.

He noted that the United States “still has one of the highest rates of teen pregnancy and births in the industrialized world, resulting in severe economic and social costs, not to mention the personal pain early sexual activity places upon teenagers and their families.”

Each year, the True Love Waits ministry's leadership has provided themes and direction for churches to help students live their lives in purity. For 2009, LifeWay has released a gender-appropriate flipbook, “Complete: A Life of Purity,” that can be used by youth leaders as a Bible study tool to engage students in conversation about the moral challenges they face.

Later this year, a new study, “Pure Parenting: Teaching Your Teen Why True Love Waits,” will be available for churches to use to support parents in their role as primary spiritual developers of their students.

True Love Waits also is expanding its reach in other parts of the world such as Africa, where honoring a commitment to remain abstinent until marriage is literally a matter of life and death. In Uganda, True Love Waits has been a catalyst for bringing people together around the abstinence message in schools, youth groups, communities and other places.

In the years that followed TLW's introduction in Uganda, the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate, which in parts of the country was more than 30 percent, dropped to 6.7 percent. Some leaders there say the turnaround literally has saved a generation.

This month, a LifeWay team is spending two weeks in the Philippines to work



with the True Love Waits movement there and evaluating possible ways to expand in that country.

This spring, adult and student leaders and shapers in the sexual abstinence movement will consider the future direction of True Love Waits for coming generations. While the message of True Love Waits remains the same, youth leaders and parents

constantly are challenged in the most effective ways to communicate with students and encourage them to maintain their commitment to abstinence until marriage.

In a USA Today article published last June, a study by the RAND Corp., which surveyed teen virgins over a three-year period to see whether they remained chaste found that “virginity pledges do deter some teens from having sex,” the article stated. “... In 2001, when the research began, teenagers who vowed to remain virgins until they were married were less likely to be sexually active than others who didn't make a pledge.”

This and other studies challenge the generally negative assessment of abstinence programs reached by some researchers (see article below).

“It is important for churches to realize that confronting sexual issues in today's world requires more than a one-time event or emphasis,” Hester said. “Students need ongoing education and encouragement if we hope to continue to make progress in our culture.”

“Although times and cultures change, God's plan for sexual purity remains the same,” he added. “True Love Waits continues to be an important tool to guide students in living lives of biblical purity.” (BP)

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For brochure, information, and letter from Rev. Myers call 7 days a week:

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## Recent study targets abstinence-only education and pledges as ineffective

By Erin Roach

Washington—Another new look at old data has caused a stir in the national media, and abstinence pledges are taking another hit just as Congress and the Obama administration are reconsidering millions of dollars in funding for abstinence-education programs.

The latest report, appearing in the January issue of the journal Pediatrics, examined 934 teenagers with strong religious backgrounds, 289 of whom took abstinence pledges and 645 who did not. Based on this within-group comparison, the study found that teenagers who took a pledge were just as likely to have premarital sex as those who did not take a pledge; and those who took pledges were less likely to use contraceptives.

However, the study only compared the behavior of strongly religious teenagers to other strongly religious teenagers and made no comparison of this group to teenagers with little or no religious influence in their lives.

In an interview with Baptist Press the author of the study, Janet Rosenbaum, a Harvard graduate and a postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health defended the research.

**Q: One of the primary groups you listed as important to your study were pledgers (those who vowed chastity until marriage), yet you excluded those who had married by age 20 to 23—ostensibly eliminating data showing the effectiveness of pledging (those who remained chaste until marriage). Why? How many subjects were excluded by your decision? How many of these were pledgers?**

A: The study looked at both single and married pledgers and non-pledgers. I found that pledgers married and divorced at the same rates as similar non-pledgers: By age 22, about 20 percent of both groups had married and about 2 percent had divorced.

**Q: Previous research shows that ongoing support systems (such as found in faith-based programs) are critical to pledgers' success. What does the research show regarding those who made pledges as part of a program such as True Love Waits versus those who made secular abstinence pledges with more limited involvement of a pledger's circle of key influencers?**

A: I know that's a question that (Richard) Ross (co-founder of True Love Waits) is interested in answering, but I am not aware of any peer-reviewed

research on the question. The reality is that most religiously conservative teenagers have sex, according to both my study of religiously conservative teenagers and Byron Weathersbee's dissertation that found 60 percent of weekly-church attending newly-married couples reported having had premarital sex.

**Q: How do you reconcile the success of True Love Waits versus secular abstinence pledges that lack the components that make TLW effective? For instance, trends that have shown U.S. teenagers are having less sex track alongside the introduction of the TLW movement in 1994 and its subsequent use as a tool to encourage purity.**

A: The goal of sex education is delayed and safer sex, and we have over 15 abstinence-plus programs proven to meet those goals. By contrast, the congressionally-mandated study used the best statistical methods to evaluate several abstinence-only programs initially thought the most promising of all abstinence-only programs, and this study found that none of these programs cause delayed sex. In other words, all the evidence finds that abstinence-plus programs accomplish the goal of abstinence better than the abstinence-only programs.

Richard Ross, in comments to Baptist Press, noted that Rosenbaum's study is “simply a new statistical treatment” of the data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health conducted in the mid-1990s.

“Neither the Johns Hopkins analysis nor the original ADD Health Study considered what types of pledges these 289 teenagers made,” Ross pointed out. “If this sample included any who had made True Love Waits promises, they were lumped together with all those who had made secular promises as part of school-based programs.”

Not all abstinence pledges are the same, Ross said, because True Love Waits promises are made to God in the power of the Holy Spirit with the involvement of parents and supportive peers. And rather than a one-time signing of a card, True Love Waits is a process of moving teenagers toward reaching the goal of abstaining from sex until marriage.

“We know of no secular or even religious campaign that is as comprehensive and life-encompassing in its approach to moral purity,” he said. (BP)

**PRAYER PARTNERS**

Please pray for the following requests associated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions efforts:

■ Pray for the Feb. 25 meeting to plan for the Acts 1:8 Challenge conferences, which will be held March 31-April 4.

■ Pray for those attending the Southern Baptist International Mission Board Summits, Feb. 26-28 and March 2-3 in Birmingham, Ala.

■ Pray for those Kentucky Baptist churches and associations that are finalizing their mission trip plans for 2009.

■ Pray for Jório Ferreira's wife, Nordaly, who has been experiencing recent health problems. Ferreira serves as an on-site coordinator for the KBC's mission partnership with Brazilian Baptists.

■ Pray for Cindy Hawkins, an IMB missionary serving in Greece.

■ Pray that more Kentucky Baptist pastors and DOMs will participate in the vision trip to Japan May 23-30.

For more information about partnership missions opportunities, contact the KBC partnership missions department at (502) 489-3529, toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3529, or visit [www.KyBaptist.org/Partnership](http://www.KyBaptist.org/Partnership).

**MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI**

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BLOOMFIELD**—Bloomfield Church recently ordained **John Roby** as a deacon. **Ryan Lyons** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—**Johnny Hawkins** recently resigned as pastor of New Jerusalem Church.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will host a Singspiration Service Feb. 22, 6 p.m., with special music provided by church members and guests. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **CAVE CITY**—Cave City Church recently called **Stephen Cavness** as pastor. He previously was pastor at Antioch Church in Bedford.

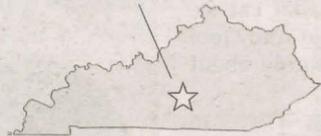
■ **LEXINGTON**—East Hickman Church recently called **Jim McGee** as pastor.

■ **PARIS**—First Church recently called **Jason Logan** as minister of music and education. **Gary Ellcesor** is pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—First Church will host DiscipleNow Feb. 20-22 with youth speaker **Jason Jasper**, special music by **The Forrest Coleman Band** and drama provided

**Spotlight on ...**

**Campbellsville**



Campbellsville University will host Christian illusionist **David Garrard** Feb. 25, 10 a.m., at the Ransdell Chapel. Garrard also is children's minister at St. Matthews Church in Louisville.

by **3-D. Ergun Caner**, president of Liberty Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Va., will be the guest speaker at both Sunday morning worship services Feb. 22. For more information, call (606) 678-5106. **French Harmon** is pastor.

■ **WESTPORT**—Westport Church ordained **Josh Sowder** and **Evan Tingle** as deacons Feb. 8. **DeWayne Sowell** is pastor.

**Campbellsville University honored by Kentucky Press Association**

Louisville—Campbellsville University recently was presented with an award for its sponsorship of 11 Kentucky high schools in the Kentucky High School Journalism Association at the Kentucky Press Association's annual conference in Louisville.

Stan McKinney, assistant professor of journalism and advisor of the school newspaper, accepted the award on behalf of the university. McKinney also is serving his second year on the Kentucky Press Association board.

"We are the only university to

even sponsor a high school. We sponsored more high schools than any other business, newspaper, etc., last year," McKinney said. "I see sponsorship as a way for us to connect with area high schools."

McKinney encourages students in Campbellsville's mass communication department to attend the conference every year, because "the professionals who attend KPA are those who some day might hire our students. Attending the conventions is a good way to make contacts."

**KBC KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**February**

- 18 Church Retirement Plan "Reality Check" Conference, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green; First Baptist Church, Pikeville.
- 20 Church Retirement Plan "Reality Check" Conference, Ninth & O Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 23-24 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 26 Church Retirement Plan "Reality Check" Conference, First Baptist Church, Mount Sterling.

**March**

- 4-18 College Blitz, Habitat for Humanity, Morehead.
- 6-7 Creative Ministries Festival, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.
- 7 RA Congress Region 1, Bellview Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 7 RA Congress Region 3, First Baptist Church, Mount Washington.
- 7 State Vacation Bible School Clinic-East, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)

**Welcome**  
**Pulaski Baptist Association**  
**Newsletter Plan**  
**Malcolm Cheek, DOM**



**HONORED GUESTS** Campbellsville University students met Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear, who spoke at Kentucky Press Association's recent winter convention. Front row (from left): Brian Carpenter, Rachel Crenshaw, Christina Miller, Hillary Wright and Stan McKinney, assistant professor of journalism at Campbellsville University. Back row (from left): Joan McKinney, news and publications coordinator at Campbellsville University, André Tomaz, Ashley Zsedenyi, Gov. Steve Beshear, Lauren Shrader and Rashad Harrison.

**AVAILABLE:** Senior pastor seeks interim/pulpit supply in small church within 65-mile radius of Louisville. (502) 543-8558.

**FOR SALE:** Church buses and vans—new and used. Call American Bus and Accessories, Inc., (800) 582-7118.

**FOR SALE:** Christian, patriotic and military neckties, \$6. Humor book, "500 Laughter Doeth Good Like a Medicine" (over 1,000 sold), \$6. Booklet, "Death: How to Prepare," \$6. (606) 285-3051.

**FREE:** 10 pews, 20 feet long, like new. (270) 866-6495.

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor for Russell Springs First Baptist Church. Interested brethren may send resumés to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 1477, Russell Springs, KY 42642, Attn: Pastor Search Committee. Inquiries may call (270) 585-3116.

**SEEKING:** Student minister (grades 7-12) for Dripping Spring Baptist Church near Russellville. Send resumés or questions to [salvis@wildblue.net](mailto:salvis@wildblue.net); or DSBC Search Committee, 1255 Cedar Grove Road, Olmstead, KY 42265.

**SEEKING:** Full-time individual to coordinate and minister to youth (grades 6-12) at Eubank Baptist Church, Eubank, Ky. This individual also will assist pastor in other pastoral duties. Interested individuals are encouraged to submit resumés. E-mail: [Shelby.Reynolds@eubankbaptist.org](mailto:Shelby.Reynolds@eubankbaptist.org). Church phone: (606) 379-2122.

**SEEKING:** Minister of music for Crab Orchard Baptist Church. For details, contact Casey Horton, (606) 282-3776.

**SEEKING:** Instrumentalist for east end congregation—contemporary and traditional music. Send resumé to Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, 3728 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40220, Attn: Personnel Dept. You may call the church at (502) 454-4681 to set a time for an interview; hours and pay will be discussed at the interview.

**SEEKING:** Are you searching for a way to use your God-given talents as a sales person? The Creation Museum, which is part of Answers in Genesis, is searching for three successful group sales representatives. The positions are available in the following territories: 1) Ohio, which includes Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, and Northern Kentucky; 2) Indianapolis, Indiana area; and 3) Kentucky, which includes Louisville and Lexington, along with handling our bus tours. Position summary: The group sales representative holds the primary responsibility for booking groups in a defined territory for Creation Museum visits. This person has heavy contact and influence with all AiG audiences, including churches, schools and area community groups. The position pays salary plus commission. To learn more about us and to read the full job description, please visit [www.creationmuseum.org](http://www.creationmuseum.org).

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**SEEKING:** Pastor for Siloam Baptist Church in Glasgow, Ky. Parsonage furnished (four bedrooms, two baths) located across the road from the church. Church has 300-plus members, with 100-plus in Sunday school. Interested pastors please send resumé and non-returnable tape or CD to Siloam Baptist Church, 517 Siloam Road, Glasgow, KY 42141. For questions, call (270) 646-8128 or 646-0079.

**SEEKING:** Energetic, part-time worship minister to plan, organize and lead a growing worship ministry toward a dynamic, blended worship style that will cultivate genuine worship. Responsibilities: weekly leadership of worship choir, praise team, instrumentalists and seasonal events. Qualifications: college degree with seminary-level training, preferably in music. Submit resumé to Ballardsville Baptist Church, 4300 S. Hwy 53, Crestwood, KY 40014; or e-mail [Darlene@BBCLife.org](mailto:Darlene@BBCLife.org). Deadline is March 15.

**SEEKING:** Interim worship leader for Lancaster Baptist Church, Lancaster, Ky. Must be capable of leading a blended service/praise band. For more information, e-mail [pastorbrad@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbrad@gmail.com), or call (859) 792-2781.

**SEEKING:** Southern Baptist pastor for Corinth Baptist, Winchester, Ky. Must be spiritually led. Please send resumé and non-returnable DVD/VHS by March 1, 2009, to Pastor Search Committee, CBC, PO Box 4524, Winchester, KY 40392.

**SEEKING:** Director of missions for Oldham-Trimble Baptist Association. OTBA consists of 22 churches in the two counties; for more information about OTBA, please visit our Web site at [www.OTBA-KY.com](http://www.OTBA-KY.com). Please e-mail resumés by March 15, 2009, to [DOMSearch@otba-ky.com](mailto:DOMSearch@otba-ky.com); or mail resumés to: OTBA DOM Search Team, 4901 South Highway 53, Crestwood, KY 40014.

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor that is capable of strongly preaching God's Word, recognizing and casting God's vision for our church, leading our congregation and staff to His purposes and grow His Kingdom. Great Bridge Baptist Church of Chesapeake, Va., desires a pastor who has completed his Southern Baptist education (MDiv. minimum) from an accredited seminary and has at least 5 years experience as a senior pastor of a medium-to-large congregation. We are blessed with a wonderful facility, great staff and

loving congregation. Now, as our pastor has retired, we seek God's leader for our flock. Please send resumé and CD/DVD sermon to Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 16432 Chesapeake, VA 23328; or [pastorsearch@greatbridgebaptist.org](mailto:pastorsearch@greatbridgebaptist.org). Please submit by April 30.

**SEEKING:** Pianist for Central Baptist Church, Paris, Ky. Responsible for three Sunday services, Wednesday evening prayer meeting and worship choir rehearsal. Pay based on experience. Send resumé to Central Baptist Church, 829 High Street, Paris, KY 40361, Attn: Rev. Matthew Crook; or e-mail to [mattcb@bellsouth.net](mailto:mattcb@bellsouth.net). For more information, call (859) 987-3951.

**SEEKING:** Director of missions for Lawrence County Baptist Association. Please send resumé, doctrinal commitments, references and an audio/video sermon to: Chad Moore, Lawrence County Baptist Association, 2427 Hwy 43 South, Leoma, TN 38468; or e-mail resumé to: [lawcobaptist@lorettotel.net](mailto:lawcobaptist@lorettotel.net).

**SEEKING:** Interim youth minister for east end church. Approximately 20 hours per week; \$200 per week. May lead to continuing ministry. Experience and degree preferred; will consider someone who is working toward these goals. Send resumé to Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, 3728 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40220, Attn: Personnel Dept. For any questions, call the church at (502) 454-4681.

## Religious freedom group urges Obama to appoint envoy

By Yvette Rattray

Washington—The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom asked President Obama Feb. 11 to take quick action in appointing a special envoy dedicated to achieving peace in Sudan.

The envoy would be an advocate for the Obama administration in the effort to bring about full implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended civil war in the northeastern African country.

The conflict of more than 20 years was marked by a genocidal campaign waged by the militant Islamic Arab regime in Khartoum. Atrocities occurred against Christians, animists in southern Sudan, and moderate African Muslims.

In a Capitol Hill news conference, the USCIRF stressed the need for the Sudanese government to enact its CPA obligations. Without compliance, the group's leaders said, there could be increased belligerence between Khartoum in the north and factions in the south.

Such conflict will thwart attempts to halt the genocidal effort in Darfur that began six years ago.

In that western region of Sudan, Khartoum military forces and Arab militias backed by the government have instituted ethnic cleansing against African Muslims. USCIRF estimates that 400,000 people have died and others have been tortured, raped and kidnapped.

The group estimates more than two million people have been left homeless from the conflict.

Members of Congress attending the news conference suggested the Obama administration issue a clear policy on the work of the special envoy.

Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., said it is important that the envoy is a person who dem-



**UNDER SEIGE** This Sudanese church, destroyed by a bomb in 2001, gave testimony to war and persecution that plagued the country for more than 20 years.

onstrates credibility when speaking for the president.

Among USCIRF recommendations presented at the news conference were:

- Focusing on and advancing implementation of the CPA by building support for peace.

- Protecting civilians by establishing security guarantees.

- Stressing the importance of reconciliation and law by monitoring and investigating human rights.

- Constructing a successful economy by encouraging the development of a banking system.

- Expanding U.S. diplomacy in southern Sudan.

"Justice is important, but the people in the camps cannot wait," said Rep. Donald Payne, D-N.J., chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health. "They need action and need it now."

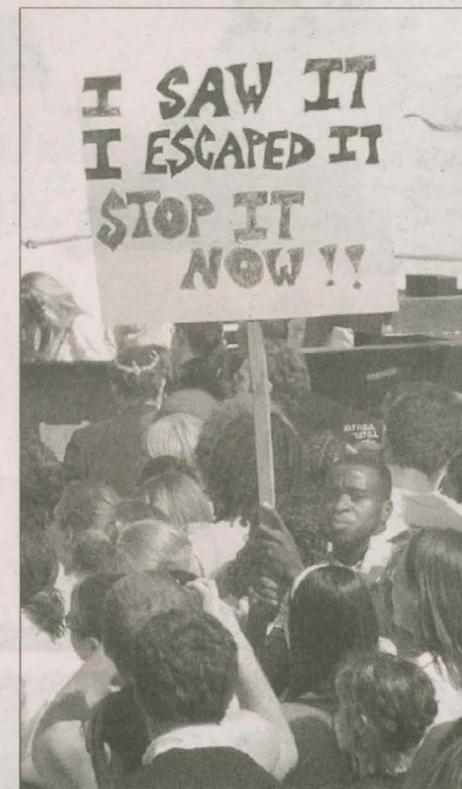
Payne reminded reporters that Sudan accommodated Osama Bin Laden within its borders in the 1990s.

The success of CPA is central in promoting peace in Darfur and other regions of Sudan, speakers noted. If the CPA collapses, then the crisis in Darfur will continue, Wolf said.

"For six years now, the genocide has unfolded. For four years now, we've watched the implementation of the CPA, as rocky as it is, slowly, steadily grind," said John Prendergast, co-chair of the Enough Project, a prevention campaign that takes action to end crimes against humanity.

"The Obama administration and the United States Congress have a real opportunity," Prendergast said. "The U.S. needs to align itself and then work assiduously for peace."

USCIRF identifies what it considers the world's worst religious freedom violators, then advises the U.S. State Department as



**TAKING A STAND** An unidentified African appeals for action at the 2006 "Save Darfur: Rally to Stop Genocide" in Washington. (Photo by Shannon Baker)

it compiles its list of "countries of particular concern." Sudan is one of eight such countries.

USCIRF is a nine-member panel selected by the president and congressional leaders. It reports to the White House and Congress on religious freedom overseas. Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, is a USCIRF commissioner. (BP)

## World Hunger Fund helps provide brighter future for Bengali families

By Mark Kelly

Kolkata, India—A group of women in India's West Bengal state now can better care for their families because of Southern Baptists' gifts to the convention's World Hunger Fund.

The project focused on widows and other women in two villages living in desperate poverty, some with children suffering from malnutrition. As members of a minority religious group, the women were ostracized by many of their neighbors.

A Southern Baptist field partner who saw the women's plight said he believed their lives could improve dramatically if they were given a dairy cow and shown how to care for it. He determined it would cost as little as \$80 per family.

"The gift of a cow to a desperately poor family is an appropriate expression of Christian charity and a tangible demonstration of the love of Christ," said the field partner, who asked that his name be withheld for security reasons.

The cow "would significantly improve the economic viability of the recipient family. A year-round market exists for milk, and local vendors roam the area looking for villagers willing to sell milk."

Helping a poor family earn a modest income selling milk would improve their lives and give them opportunities to help others.

Working with community leaders and local Christians, the field partner identified households headed by women who had no reliable source of income and were finding it difficult to educate and feed their children. An allocation of \$22,000 was made from the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund to make the project possible.

Each family was given a dairy cow and a newborn calf and shown how to care for them. The project provided food and veterinary care for the animals and, over the course of six to nine months, proceeds from milk sales reimbursed the cost of purchasing the cattle.

Once that was accomplished, the family could build on their dairy business and help find other families who could benefit from the same kind of help.

Although it took longer than expected to find a reliable source of healthy cattle and to secure experienced veterinary care, the first round of the project went very well, the field partner noted.

"We have seen significant poverty relief in several families," he said. "One widow with two children 'paid off' her cow quickly and used the income to set up a small shop on a nearby rail platform."

Another woman with eight young children "now has better food for her family," he added.

The project opens the door for economic development and helps families understand God's love for them and His desire to give them abundant lives full of meaning and hope, the worker said.

The women are encouraged when they are given the opportunity to better provide for their own families.

"Any humanitarian project takes on a richer and deeper meaning for its recipients when they participate in the results," the field partner said.

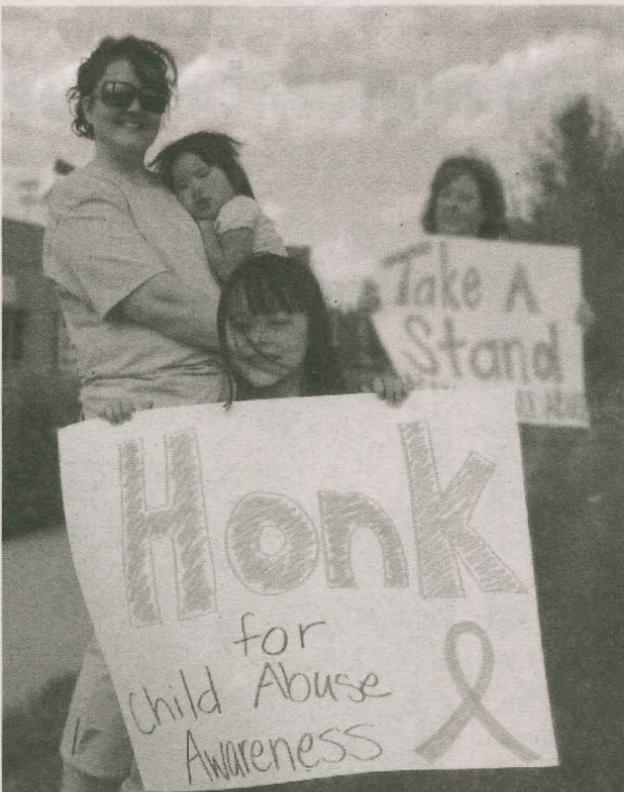
"We clearly state from the beginning that participation requires something from them, and that they will, in turn, participate in helping other members of their community."

Women who received the cattle were eager to give freely to others, he added.

"We were surprised by how willingly the recipients shared their proceeds with other women and families in the same condition," the worker explained. "Some of the women learned a great deal about the care of dairy cows and now can use these skills to help themselves and other members of their community." (BP)



**A BETTER LIFE** A woman in the West Bengal region of India tends to her dairy cow. About a dozen women in the area have started their own small dairy operations thanks to a development project made possible by the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. (BGR photo)

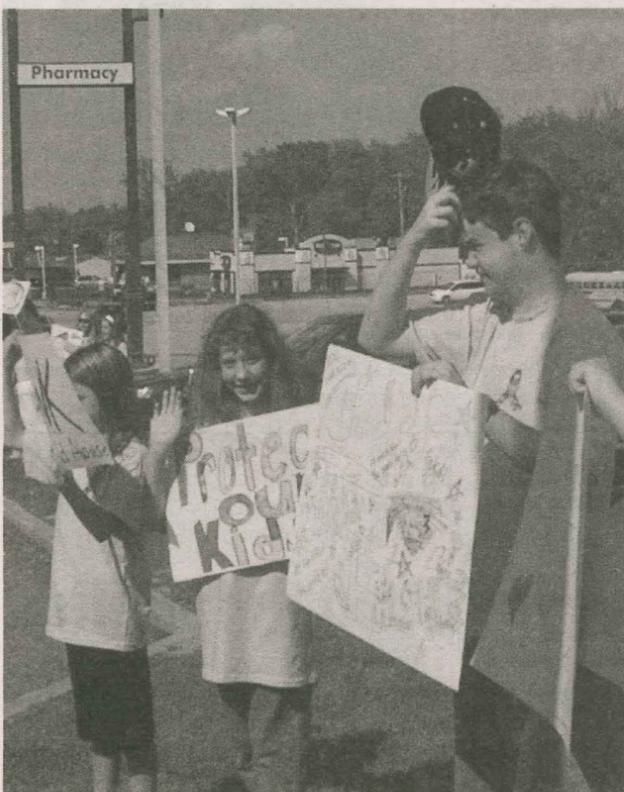


# Take a STAND against child abuse

March 28, 2009

10 a.m.-Noon

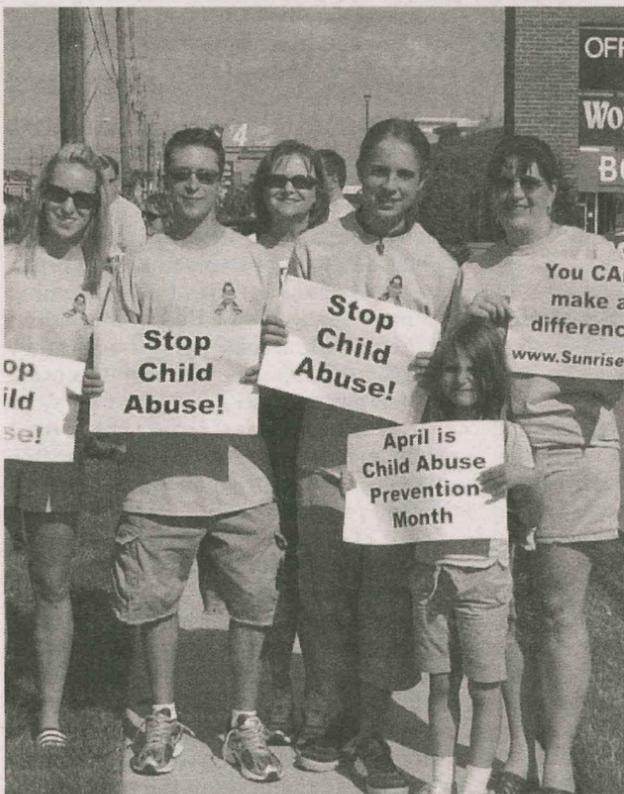
For more information about specific locations in your area or to register to participate, visit [WWW.SUNRISE.ORG](http://WWW.SUNRISE.ORG)



Every 8.5 minutes, a child in Kentucky is reportedly abused or neglected. Statistics suggest that there are many more cases that are unreported - children who aren't being protected by the adults in their lives. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and, to kick off the month, Sunrise Children's Services is hosting an event to raise awareness in Kentucky.

These Take a Stand events will be held in nine major cities in Kentucky:

- Danville
- Lexington
- Paducah
- Elizabethtown
- Louisville
- Pikeville
- Morehead
- Owensboro
- Somerset



To Take a Stand, Sunrise employees, friends and supporters will gather donations and then stand for two hours on the side of a well-traveled road to promote child abuse awareness. It's like a walk, but without the walking. This event is perfect for families and groups of all ages.

**The kids are counting on you. Will you give two hours and take a stand for them?**



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TAKE A STAND, VISIT [WWW.SUNRISE.ORG](http://WWW.SUNRISE.ORG).

**SUNRISE CHILDREN'S SERVICES**  
*Providing hope and healing to Kentucky's abused, neglected and at-risk youth for 140 years through Christ-centered ministries.*

[www.Sunrise.org](http://www.Sunrise.org)